

The Life of
Our Parents
G. Stanley & Donnette McAllister



Written by their son and daughter,
Kenneth Fielding McAllister
Maridon McAllister Morrison

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Preface

Mother died over 63 years ago. Dad has been gone 42 years. They left no formal journal of their lives. My children never knew them. Their impact upon my sister, Maridon, and me has been everlasting. From their letters and our conversations with relatives and associates, we have compiled this brief tribute to their loving memory. I thank my sister for her personal knowledge in this undertaking. My thanks also to my son, Grant, for his technical support and to Michelle Janke and Donnette Fisher for their input. For the final editing and printing my gratitude is extended to son-in-law, John Larsen.

June 10, 2012

We pay tribute to two Latter-day Saint pioneers who went east to establish Zion
G. Stanley and Donnette Kesler McAllister

Dad - Born: Salt Lake City 10 Feb. 1900 - Died: New York City 20 Jun. 1970
Mother - Born: Salt Lake City 13 Mar 1902 - Died: New York City 18 Mar 1949

Dad - Birth and Family Background

1900

Our parents were raised as active members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah, just a few miles apart from one another.

Our father, **George Stanley McAllister II**, was born on Saturday, February 10, 1900, the second child of George Stanley McAllister I (May 26, 1869-May 15, 1946) and Helen Janette (Nettie) Maeser (July 20, 1872-February 18, 1931).

During the brief thirty years Dad and I shared mortality together (1940-1970), he was known as Stanley, G.S., G. Stanley or Stan. His New York City radio (**Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc. - CBS**) business associates occasionally called him "Mac". To me, he was Dad.

Dad's father, George, was the second child of Duncan McNeil McAllister (1842-1931) and Catherine Esther Perkes (1846-1907). The names of the other six siblings were Duncan William, Catherine Perkes, Katie Perkes, Henry Perkes, Malcolm and Christina Violet.

Dad's mother, Nettie, was the seventh child out of eight born to Karl Gottfried Maeser (1828-1901) and Anna Henrietta Theresa Mieth (1830-1896). There were four boys and four girls. Two boys and three girls survived birth or infancy. Their names are Karl Frederick Reinhard, Anna Ottilie, Karl Emil, 'Nettie', and Evelyn.

Nettie married George, Wednesday, June 17, 1896, in the Salt Lake Temple. They reared six children: Theresa, Stanley (our Dad), Vilate, Katherine, Ottilie (Tillie), and Karl Duncan.

George was 5 feet 3 inches tall and of stocky build, with dark curly hair and a

mustache. Nettie was 5 feet 5 inches tall and very thin. Nettie had fine brown hair and greenish-blue eyes. She was an active member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She was well educated, played the piano, wrote many pagents and skits and made quilts, many of which were given to the poor. She faithfully served in leadership positions of the Relief Society at the ward and stake levels.

In 1900 the family lived at 254 North First West, about two blocks north of the Salt Lake City Temple.



While living at this address, George served ten years as Superintendent of the Sunday School in the 17th Ward. He introduced the two and a half minute talk into the Sunday School meeting format, which became a part of the Sunday School "opening exercises" Church-wide well into the 1970s.

In 1918 the family moved to a two-story home at 120 South 10th East, across the street from the 11th Ward (151 South 10th East) of the Ensign Stake and the Holy Cross Hospital. Three years after moving into the 11th Ward, Grandpa McAllister was called as the bishop upon the retirement of Bishop William Armstrong. Grandpa served as bishop of the 11th Ward for 15 years.

Lamont Wilson, a cousin, (his mother was the youngest sister to G. S. McAllister I) remembers being in the home on 10th East.

The front door was on the right side with the living room to the left as you entered. He thinks there was a fireplace in the living room. He remembers they had a piano. Dad's sisters sang for family entertainment at Christmas time. They boarded three college female students for additional income. (As of 2011, the home was still there, but the Ensign Stake building was not.)



Grandpa McAllister served 22 years (1916-1938) as the manager of ZCMI's (Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution) clothing factory. Upon his retirement in 1938, it was noted that his retail work experience had spanned 58 years, starting as an apprentice in the old ZCMI shoe factory. His responsibilities brought him east two or three times a year on business trips. Grandpa and Grandma spent over a week with Dad in New York City in 1922, where Dad was serving a fulltime LDS mission. Again in 1926, father and son spent some "quality time" together in Manhattan, prior to their going to Philadelphia and eventually returning to Utah.

Sadly, grandmother, Nettie, passed away at the age of 58, on Wednesday, February 18, 1931 at 12:40 p.m. While at home she experienced a fatal stroke, which unexpectedly cut short her life of service to community, Church and family. Apostles James E. Talmage and Richard R. Lyman spoke at her funeral held in the 11th Ward.

Following Grandpa McAllister's retirement, he was appointed by the Governor of Utah to be the Manager of the Utah Building and Exhibit at the 1939 New York World's Fair on Long Island. (Utah's Governor at the time was Henry Blood, uncle of Leon Blood Linford, husband to Imogene, Mother's youngest sister.)

Grandpa lived with Dad, Mother and Maridon before finding an apartment on Long Island while the fair was in operation during the months of April through October 1938 and 1940. Dad and his father had many occasions to further enjoy their strong association participating jointly in much of the work involved with this assignment.

In 1940, Grandpa sold his home on 10th East and moved to an apartment near the Salt Lake Temple. Kenneth H. Beasley, Dad's nephew, (son of Theresa) noted that Grandpa McAllister was a Salt Lake Temple worker for many years. On Wednesday morning, May 15, 1946 (at the age of 76), upon checking why Grandpa did not report to the temple as scheduled, it was learned he had passed away in his nearby apartment while on his knees in prayer.

His funeral was held in the 17th Ward where he then resided and where he had previously lived and faithfully served for many years. Apostle Harold B. Lee was one of the speakers at his funeral. Twenty-four years later (June 26, 1970), Elder Lee conducted Dad's funeral in the same ward building.

Mother - Family Background and Birth **1902**

Our mother, Donnette Kesler, was the daughter of Alonzo Pratt Kesler (January 29, 1868–February 4, 1918) and Donnette Smith (September 17, 1872–September 15, 1961). Both grandparents were born in Salt Lake City.

Alonzo's mother, Jane Elizabeth Pratt (October 22, 1835 – November 22, 1912), was the daughter of Anson Pratt (1801–1849), eldest brother of Parley Parker Pratt and Orson Pratt. Jane's mother was Sarah (Sally) Barber (1805–1849). Anson and Sarah had six children, 4 girls and 2 boys. Jane, their third child, was born in Brooklyn, New York on October 22, 1835. Grandmother referred to Jane Elizabeth as "salty tears" in her journal (Reminiscences).

Alonzo's father, Frederick Kesler (1816-1899) was nineteen years older than Jane. He was the bishop of the Sixteenth Ward in Salt Lake City from 1856 to 1899 where he maintained a residence near his several business endeavors.

Alonzo was raised by his mother on a large ranch in Pleasant Green (Magna), Utah. On occasion while visiting in Salt Lake, Alonzo and Donnette, as children became friends. Alonzo's father, Fredrick, was the bishop of her ward.

Alonzo served a two and a half year mission to Great Britain from 1894 to 1896. It was during this time that a friendship with Elder Henry Dinwoody was created and maintained for life.

In the spring of 1896, Donnette Smith, desired additional training to be a certified kindergarten instructor. At the age of 23, under the watchful eye of her father, Joseph F. Smith, she enrolled in the Pratt Institute, a private girl's school in Brooklyn, New York.

On Saturday, March 20, 1897, Alonzo Pratt Kesler was called as President of the Eastern States Mission. The mission home was located in Brooklyn, New York at 43 Sands Street. While both were residing in the Brooklyn area, they renewed their acquaintanceship. After both had returned to Utah, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Joseph F. Smith, on Wednesday

December 26, 1900. Their first home was built at 161 North Second West.

Mother, the first of six children, was born Thursday, March 13, 1902, in an upstairs front bedroom of the Beehive House. Great grandmother, Julina Lambson Smith, Joseph F. Smith's second wife, was a midwife. The Beehive House was the official residence of the President of the Church at the time.

Mother's siblings included two sisters: Marion and Imogene and three brothers: Alonzo, Henry and Mack. The children loved playing and visiting in the Beehive House. They recalled watching parades from the porch and being an integral part of the events and activities of the times. Uncle Mack remembers being in the Beehive House watching his grandmother, Julina, and his mother, Donnette, making temple clothing. Mack remembers when Joseph F. would come home for supper, they would kneel in prayer. Mack remembers listening as Joseph F. prayed. Mack could feel the power and presence of the Holy Spirit surrounding his grandfather.

Grandmother took out her endowments in the Logan Temple September 4, 1889. Prior to the Salt Lake Temple being dedicated, her father set her apart as a temple worker. She was never released from this calling. Upon her death in 1961, it was noted she had been a Salt Lake Temple worker since 1893, more than 68 years. She also wrote a song that was sung at the Salt Lake Temple dedication in 1893.

Alonzo built and was the owner of two apartment buildings in Salt Lake. He was very active in community politics. He later became Assistant Postmaster and served on Governor Spry's staff.

In 1911 the family lived in the "Kesler Apartments" at 264 North State Street. They spent part of the 1913 summer in

Ocean Park, California. It was there that two-year old Mack was diagnosed with infantile paralysis and the family return to Salt Lake. Tragically, Mack lost all muscle strength below his right knee. Alonzo purchased eight acres of land and built a three-story home at 2171 South 500 East. Mack related to me that they had a field of surrounding acreage for a garden and animals - chickens, pigs, cow, etc. During this time the children attended the Columbus School at 2530 South 5th East.

Because Alonzo was very social and involved in political affairs there was a great deal of entertaining going on continually. The first floor of their home was technically a ballroom used for large parties and social events. The family living quarters were on the second and third levels. During the summers, large barbecues were held for friends. Donnette (his wife) was often left at home with the children while Alonzo was in the city taking care of business and other activities for days at a time. The children were all assigned chores around the home and property where they learned how to work hard and take responsibility for their assignments.

Henry Dinwoody, Alonzo's missionary companion, became a very successful business leader. Alonzo and Henry had a very strong friendship. Alonzo named his second daughter "Marion" after Henry's wife and his second son Henry.

Mother and Her Sister (Marion) – Amazing Similarities **1903**

Marion was born Tuesday, March 3, 1903. (Mother was born March 13, 1902.) Donnette and Marion were ten days short of being a year apart. They were often referred to as "the Mormon twins". Both were born in the Beehive House. They did almost everything together. Grandmother

dressed Mother in blue and Marion in pink. In a February 22, 1927 letter to "Stanley" 'Mother Kesler' refers to "My Marion, the other twin..."



Mother had very delicate and fair skin, blue eyes and soft brown hair. Marion had brown eyes and auburn hair. They both took piano lessons when they were 13-14 years of age but never mastered the talent. They took classes together at the university and majored in home economics. They joined the same sorority.

They were the same height and weight and slender. They both were nearsighted and wore wire-rimmed glasses. They both were very health and nutrition conscious. They ate meat sparingly. They had similar likes, dislikes and interests and hobbies. They both enjoyed needlepoint, sewing and making clothes. Neither cared much for sports as a participant, but Mother did like to watch basketball. They both were caring and effective teachers and were expressive of their feelings. They were enthusiastic and liked to have fun in a non-flamboyant way.

They married on the same day and honeymooned together. They both had two boys and a girl.

They both were diagnosed with breast cancer about a year apart. They died within approximately 32 months of one another. They both had funerals in the Garden Park Ward, on Yale Avenue, across the street from the Robbins' home. They both were buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Mother died in New York City, March 18, 1949 of cancer.

Marion died in Salt Lake City, November 29, 1951 of cancer.

Mother is buried next to Richard in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Their graves are just east of "N" Street and 5th Avenue in Park Plat 5, a few feet north of the office and maintenance buildings. Dad has title to graves 3-4-5, Lot 17, Block 4, Plat Park per receipt 10699 dated September 15, 1937.

Marion is buried in Plat 3 between Main and Hillside, Section 3-62-2-West.

Donnette Smith Kesler and Alonzo Pratt Kesler are buried just south of Grand Avenue and west of Center Street in Section B-14-17-2E.

The graves of Duncan McNeil McAllister and Catherine Ester Perkes McAllister, George Stanley McAllister I, and Helen Janette Maeser McAllister, are nearby, in the same cemetery.

The Early Years - Dad **1900 - 1912**

As a youth, Dad told me that he was a champion at playing marbles with the boys in his neighborhood. His collection of marbles was constantly being challenged as others tried to reduce his inventory. He would shoot a marble off his index finger

with his thumb and could hit another marble at several feet. (I have read that most marbles in 1912 were made in Akron, Ohio.)

He was also a good swimmer and passed the scouting swimming merit badge.

The cost of a movie in 1912 was a nickel.

Dad mentioned as a boy he would frequently visit Keely's Soda Fountain, where he socialized with others his age and palled around with his very close friend, Seymore Kenneth Robbins Sr. (April 17, 1900-February 12, 1991). Dad and his friends would attend a movie and then make a visit to the soda fountain. (Keely's was owned by members of the Robbins family.)



Seymore Kenneth Robbins Jr., Ken Robbins' oldest son, who went by the name of Kay, related to me that his father had often spoken to him of my father's work ethic. He recalled that at the age of 12, Dad had a paper route. We knew that Dad had come from a home environment where frugality and hard work were the norms of the times.

Ken Sr. and Dad were friends of Fielding Kimball Smith, the youngest son of Joseph F. Smith and Alice Ann Kimball. His nickmane was 'Smat'. Through this

friendship, we believe Ken and Dad knew of the Kesler family, but we are not certain how well they knew each family member.



Stanley McAllister
Feb 10, 1912
 Dad - ZCMI Shoe AD - February 10, 1912

We have a photo of what appears to be a newspaper advertisement of Dad in a uniform (perhaps a scout uniform) holding a shoe dated February 10, 1912 (Dad's 12 birthday). We surmise that it was a ZCMI shoe advertisement.

The LCL Club 1913 - 1991

In 1913, ten young men met at the home of Joseph F. Smith, President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their names were: Kenneth Robbins, Stanley McAllister, Clifford Snow, Jack Kelly, Stafford Sloan, Max Creer, Linden Alder, Newell Cotterell, Courtney Weggeland and Fielding Kimball Smith.

The bonds of friendship drew these boys into forming the LCL Club. I remember Dad attending luncheon-dinner-reunion functions under the guise of the LCL Club. With the passing of Ken Robbins Sunday, February 12, 1991. Newell Cotterell became the last survivor of the club, thus permitting the disclosure of the solemn

pledge never to reveal the meaning of the club's name until only one member remained alive. In a news article dated Thursday, May 23, 1991, Newell announced the name to be 'Laugh and Live' with the C in the middle signifying 'Club'. "The phrase came from a statement of the actor Douglas Fairbanks Sr., someone they all admired as 'an amusing, happy-go-lucky type of a man'. The purpose was to have fun, and the secrecy gave them a certain prestige that set them apart from the rest of the student body of the old LDS High School, actually known then as LDS University, which was located on the southeast corner of North Temple and State Streets."



I found a bible with Dad's name G. Stanley McAllister stamped on the cover with a dated and signed page in the front with the inscription 'Presented by LCL Club' 11-24-20 with 13 personal signatures in the following order Jack Kelly, G. Stanley McAllister, Fielding K. Smith, Courtney Weggeland, Clifford Snow, Linden A. North, Kenneth Robbins, J Stafford Sloan, W. Max Creer, Linden B. Alder, N. J. Cotterell, Rulon H. Davis and Gail McDonald.' This was the day Dad departed Salt Lake for his mission. It is noted that three additional persons had joined the club since its founding in 1913. The bible has a 1917 copyright by Joseph F. Smith, published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with a ready reference

section 'designed especially for the use of missionaries and other students of the scriptures'.

Scouting

The Church embraced scouting in 1913, three years after William D. Boyce had Congress grant the Boy Scouts of America a charter on February 8, 1910. By 1911 several troops were organized within the Salt Lake area. Dad told me he was an active Scout with Troop Two of the 17th Ward and later Troop 47 in Salt Lake. Paul Cutler was his scoutmaster part of the time. He earned the rank of Eagle. Mack Kesler, Mother's brother, told me that Dad and Bill Stevenson (Dr. Thomas William Stevenson) were the first recipients of the Eagle award in the State of Utah, receiving their badges at the same Court of Honor. My research has not been able to confirm this but I have been told that at least they were among the very first Eagle Scouts to be so honored from the State of Utah.

As a member of the 11th Ward, Dad became the assistant scoutmaster for several months. One of the fellows in his troop was Isaac (Ike) Stewart who would be a friend during his later Washington D.C. and New York days.

All his life Dad maintained leadership contact with the scouting organization. Dad served on the New York Boy Scouts Executive Committee for many years. In 1939 he received the organization's Silver Beaver.

When Uncle Mack turned 12 years of age in August of 1923, Bill Stevenson was his scoutmaster in the 11th Ward. In 1934, Dr. Bill operated on Mack's leg. Polio had set in and his left leg had to be amputated.

Dad's Early Education

1914-1920

Dad attended the Washington Grade School on 2nd West and 4th North. He most likely

graduated in 1914 and then attended the LDS High School and graduated in 1918.

(The old LDS High School eventually became the LDS Business College, where Kenneth H. Beasley, our cousin, served as President from 1986 to 1991. Ken Beelsey also served as the New York Stake Mission President during the 1960s when the Church was a prominent part of the 1964-65 NY World's Fair. Ken and Donna remain wonderful friends.)

World War I with Germany came to an end with the Armistice signed Monday, November 11, 1918. Word reached Salt Lake City, Utah about 2 a.m. by wire. President Woodrow Wilson continued to promote expansion expansion of federal government control over almost every aspect of our country's citizens.

By November 1918, Dad was 18 years of age. He had graduated from LDS High School and was living at home with his parents, four sisters and brother. Finances were always tight, so if not in school, Dad held down part time jobs assisting with family expenses and saving money for college and a mission.

During the summers of 1917, 1918 and 1919, Dad and Ken Robbins worked as sales representatives in Colorado and Wyoming for Utah Woolen Mills. They traveled together in Ken's car; a Chevrolet convertible

Ken and Dad would remain friends the rest of their lives even marrying sisters.

Dad attended the University of Utah after graduating from LDS High School majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration.

Ken Robbins joined the army after graduating from high school at the end of WW I. Donnette Josephine, (Donna Jo,



Ken's daughter) has his American flag from his coffin. Dad never joined the military. Later we will mention Dad's service to our country during WW II.

Death of Mother's Father and Grandfather **1918**

Monday morning February 4, 1918, while performing repairs to a chimney at the Kesler Apartments, Alonzo's third story scaffolding broke resulting in serious injuries. At 10 a.m. Donnette, his wife, was notified and went immediately to LDS Hospital where she was with him when he died at 1:30 p.m.

Mother received her Patriarchal Blessing on Tuesday, February 12, 1918 from Hyrum G. Smith, Patriarch to The Church. It states she would be a teacher and an exemplar among little children. It also says that she would finish her assigned mission upon the earth.

Mother's mother, Donnette Smith Kesler, was the daughter of Joseph F. Smith, President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During the fall and winter of 1918 an influenza (flu) epidemic was taking the lives of many people in the United States. People were advised to avoid large crowds. President Smith suffered an attack of pleurisy November 17 at the age of 80 years. It turned into pneumonia the next day resulting in his death, Tuesday morning, November 19th. No formal funeral was held. The immediate family gathered at the Beehive House then drove directly to the Salt Lake Cemetery for a graveside prayer.

Within less than ten months, Grandmother lost her husband and father. She had a very young family of six children. Grandmother remained a widow for 43 years until her passing in 1961. I have many loving memories of her. She was a strong and loving person with a great love for Jesus Christ and a firm testimony of the restored doctrine of The Church.

Mother's Move to University Street and the Eleventh Ward **1920**

Great grandmother, Julina, owned four connecting parcels of land across the street from the University of Utah, starting at the corner of 3rd South extending North. She gave one parcel to her daughter Donnette. It was on this lot that grandmother designed and built a large home at 264 University Street, with an attached apartment for Julina, where she lived until her death in 1936. (As of 2011, the home was still there.)

Some time in 1920 the Kesler family sold their large three-story home and eight acres at 2171 South and 500 East and moved to 264 University Street.

Maridon said that grandmother held Mother back a year so that both girls would graduate together. The LDS High School was known as the 'Latter-day Saints University'. I have a program dated Thursday June 21, 1922. for commencement exercises listing both Donnette and Marion graduating at the same time. They both enrolled at the 'U' and completed their freshman year requirements prior to the fall term of 1923.



With this move, the family became members of the Eleventh Ward, the home ward of the McAllisters, where Grandpa McAllister was the bishop.

Although Dad and Mother now lived just over a mile apart from one another and were members of the same ward, there is no record indicating that they had yet dated.

Dad's mission call to the Eastern States Mission arrived by mail on Saturday, October 23, 1920, from President Heber J. Grant. The mission covered an area extending from Maine to the southern border of New Jersey and half of Pennsylvania and all of New York, with headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. On Tuesday, November 23, 1920, Apostle Stephen L. Richards set Dad apart as a missionary. When Elsa Keysor and 24 others saw Dad depart on Wednesday, November 24th, at 7 p.m., from the Union Pacific train station, the total Church

membership of the Eastern States Mission was just over 1000 members, with only 140 missionaries. Some time on Thursday, the 25th, Dad ate his Thanksgiving dinner in the dining car en route to New York by way of Chicago.

Kenneth Robbins left for his three-year mission to the Hawaiian Islands in October of 1921 at the age of twenty-two.

1922

Donnette and Marion planned on attending the University of Utah starting in the fall of 1922. Some time in July or August of 1922, the girls were involved in an automobile accident. Grandmother felt that both girls needed rest and time to recover.

Mother's injuries were extensive since she had been hurled through the windshield of the automobile she had been driving. The sisters were sent to Hawaii where they stayed with their Uncle Wesley Smith (grandmother's brother), who was President of the Mission.

Given their educational timing, it is assumed that they enrolled at the U and completed part of their freshman coarse studies while in Hawaii.

Joseph Fielding Smith, grandmother's brother, gave Mother a blessing before she left Salt Lake, Saturday, September 9, 1922, for San Francisco with her sister Marion and three Elders: Albert Richards, Edward Taggert and John Morris Barton. Mother loved shopping and sightseeing in San Francisco. They set sail Wednesday, September 13, 1922 on the S.S. Manoa. They were gone five months. They returned Saturday, February 10, 1923 on the S.S. Makura. They landed in Victoria, B.C. and took the steamship Princess Adelaide to Seattle. After a few days they continued on to Portland. Marion and Donnette were always in company with and socializing with the missionaries. The rules were more

relaxed in the 1920s. It was noted that Mother, being her usual vivacious self partied and danced on the ship both going and returning.

Mother had a large photo album of pictures taken during their Hawaiian stay. This photo album was in a trunk stored in the basement of 1115 Fifth Avenue, NYC.



Grandmother Kesler recorded in her history that it was while the girls were in Hawaii that they met and became acquainted with Elder (S. Kenneth) Robbins.

During the 1940's, Mother's scars on her legs, arms, hands and face were still very noticeable lending testimony of the severity of her injuries.

Dad's Eastern States Mission 1920-1923

Dad's mission travels took him from NY to Boston to Maine and back to NY and New Jersey. While serving in Boston (October 1921), Dad and his companion made the acquaintance of Ellen Neilson, sister of Adelaide, who was studying music. The Neilson sisters were born and reared in Logan, Utah and were friends of Donnette and Marion through mutual acquaintances.

On Friday, June 16, 1922, while serving his mission in Bangor, Maine, Dad received a letter from his soon to be released Mission President McCune, for a new assignment to

Brooklyn. En route, Dad stopped off on Saturday, June 24th, and visited with Heber C. Smith at the birthplace of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont. He bore written testimony of the divine truthfulness of the Gospel.

On Sunday, November 12, 1922, the newly appointed mission president, B. H. Roberts, called Dad to be President of the Brooklyn Conference. Later he served as mission secretary under President Brigham Henry Roberts. The mission home was located at 233 Gates Avenue in Brooklyn with the chapel next door at 272 Gates Avenue.

While mission secretary, Dad served a few of the saints living in Newark, New Jersey. Upon Dad's request, he was granted permission to organize a branch in Newark. By the year 1970, that little branch had grown into two Stakes with 14 wards and branches, and over 5000 faithful and devoted members.

Dad sent a telegram to his father dated Thursday, June 14, 1923 at 4:21 p.m.: "President Roberts releases me today, wire your plans immediately." It was only a temporary release. The seeds carrying the forces and yearnings of destiny had already been planted deeply within his soul. He knew that he wanted to make a name for himself and the Church in the East. From the very moment Dad returned to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, he spoke of desires within him to return to the Eastern States.

1923-1924

Mother and Marion started their sophomore year at the 'U' in the fall of 1923.

After Dad returned from his mission in August of 1923, he reentered the University of Utah working evenings and weekends.

He joined the Sigma Chi fraternity the fall of 1923 with "Smat" Smith. His association with Sigma Chi was maintained throughout

his life. He subscribed to their magazine up through the 1960s.

It is concluded that Dad and Elder Robbins exchanged letters and that Dad had been asked about the Kesler sisters. Since they were both members of the 11th Ward, it would have been easy for them to have become friends during the fall of 1923. In the spring of 1924 Dad started dating Mother, a courtship that lasted through the summer of 1924.

From his writing, I can feel Dad's enthusiasm and attachment to NYC; a feeling he hoped would rub off on his future bride.

In a letter from Mother to Dad, dated Wednesday, August 3, 1927 (after they were married), Mother mentions her feelings for Dad while they were students at the 'U' in the spring of 1924, when she was "a carefree sophomore".

It was mentioned in a letter that Dad and Rocky Miller were in charge of the annual formal Sigma Chi party held at the Hotel Utah, February 2, 1924. Rocky was installed as the president of Northwestern University in 1949.

In February 1924 Mother took Henry Bradford to her sorority formal dance on the roof of the Hotel Utah. In September, Dad took Mother to Henry Bradford's mission farewell.

Mother was vice president of the University of Utah Junior Class, 1924-25.

Maridon and I have no record of Dad ever receiving a university or college diploma indicating a date of graduation.

During the summer of 1924 Dad had a yearning to go to Washington, D.C. He solicited the companionship of his sister Vilate, and together they went east, leaving

Thursday, October 16, 1924, where Dad was employed as a secretary for Utah Senator and Apostle Reed Smoot within the Committee on Finance. In the evenings he attended classes at Georgetown University. Vilate worked for the Corby Baking Company and helped support Dad with his education.



C. O. Sherill, Military Aide to President Coolidge, former city manager of Cincinnati, was the director of the public building commission in Washington. Mr. Sherill helped open several business advancement doors for Dad during his employment with Reed Smoot.

While living in Washington D.C., Dad took Business Administration classes at Georgetown University evening school. In a letter Dad mentions playing golf several times with Ike Stewart. This surprised me since we never were members of a golf club nor did I ever see Dad play golf. Ike Stewart and his family moved to live near us in Scarsdale (1940s). Ike became the LDS Westchester Branch President, a corporate attorney, vice president of Union

Carbide Corp. and served as president of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 1962 through 1975.

For two years Dad tested the waters in Washington, D.C. He soon realized New York City was where he wanted to live and serve. He had begun to formulate and fulfill his vision of helping to establish Zion in the Eastern States. This mission lasted for the remaining 46 years of his mortal life.

Ken Robbins returned from his three year Hawaiian Island mission in August of 1924 and almost immediately started dating Marion. Although Ken had dated several girls before his mission, Marion became his "first love".

1925 – 1926

While Mother was at the 'U', she received a bid to pledge Chi Omega. Her very close friend, Edith Teudt was president of the sorority. She also received a bid to pledge Alpha Chi Omega. The same month, her sister, Marion, received a bid to pledge Alpha Chi Omega. Mother favored Chi Omega, but at the insistence of her mother, both pledged Alpha Chi Omega.

Mother graduated with Bachelor of Science degree on June 8, 1926, with a major in Home Economics and a "Teacher's High School Diploma". The diploma was signed by George Thomas, President, and Clarence Snow, Chairman of the Board of Regents. The diploma qualified her to teach in "any of the grades in the public schools of Utah". Dad was working in New York City at the time and was not able to attend her commencement exercises.

As noted in letters "Mother was always very vivacious and popular". She always had a steady stream of boy friends, but Dad seemed to be the "most preferred". By 1925, she and Marion were attending family functions at the Robbins and McAllister households with or without Ken

or "Stan". The McAllisters presented Mother with a perpetual diary the Christmas of 1924-25 in which she made a few entries dated 1926.



Dad and Ken Robbins must have compared notes and shared long term goals from August of 1924 through the summer of 1925. Their boyhood, scouting and LCL Club ties would have made this inevitable. In August of 1925, Ken Robbins went east where he completed one year of dental school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. During 1925, Dad lived at the Sigma Chi House on the Georgetown Campus. The address on one letter is given as 1312 "N" Street, N.W. At Christmas time of 1925, Dad sent Mother his Sigma Chi pin to officially announce their engagement. Ken and Marion must also have become engaged about this same time, since they planned on a double wedding September 1926.



I have a letter dated Wednesday, December 2, 1925, addressed to "My Sweetheart" (in Salt Lake City) from Dad (in Washington, D.C.) stating "Please believe in me, Yours ever Stan". The letterhead reads "Public Buildings Commission - Washington". Dad referred to Mother as "Dawn".

My sister, Maridon, recounts that while she attended Emma Willard (private girls school, Troy, NY, 1946-1948) she was affectionately known as "Dawn" by her closest friends.

This 1925 letter from Dad to Mother mentions a "wager" that they made while on a date in Salt Lake, Sunday, December 2, 1923 to have a "date in New York" on December 2, 1938. I now know that they dated from the winter of 1923-24. The closing paragraph in the same letter is evidence of their deepening relationship.

As quoted in the letter, "Then again, we have had so many wonderful little bits of personal things that have so added to the dream story of our life and have filled in the little niches that have made it so impressive. Now, why, Dawn, cannot we

continue on in this beautiful path. I am ready because I love you. Are you willing to carry on a little longer until we can make our fairy story a reality?"

After Dad made the wedding proposal official in December of 1925, I am sure Mother's waiting eight months until after graduation from the "U" before marriage was difficult. With the announcement of the wedding of Ken and Marion, it was decided to have the two weddings together.

A brief write up in a Salt Lake newspaper was headed "Victims of Cupid Pass Sanity Test". Heber C. Smith, Deputy Sheriff, uncle of the Kesler sisters (Donnette and Marion), issued an arrest warrant dated August 30, 1926, knowing that the couples would be applying for their wedding licenses at noon on that day. When the couples appeared before the magistrate they were shackled with hand cuffs and march briefly to jail. Before Judge Mathison, the couple were given sanity tests. Those in the court room wished them well upon the verdict that "marriage was the only cure".

The Kesler sisters planned a double-sealing ceremony in the Salt Lake Temple Wednesday, September 1, 1926. Apostle Reed Smoot performed the wedding ceremony. Joseph Fielding Smith and George Stanley McAllister I (dad's father) were the witness couple. Mother's pictures as a young girl and bride are beautiful.

Grandmother was always referred to as 'Mother Kesler' by Dad.

Following their temple weddings, Marion and Donnette had a large double wedding reception at the home of Henry Dinwoody on East South Temple street. Mother's wedding attendants were: Miss. Vilate McAllister (Dad's sister), Mrs. Melvin R. Ballard (who was Geraldine Smith, mother of Apostle M. Russell Ballard, Jr.), and Miss. Ruth Stewart. Marion's attendants

were: Miss. Rosina Cannon, Miss. Emma Lou Robbins (Ken's sister) and Mrs. William Choice Jr. from Hawaii.



A newspaper clipping describes the occasion as the major social event of the season.

There was a brief write up in a Logan, Utah newspaper with the following notation "...Misses Ellen and Adelaide Neilson and Weston Vernon Jr. motored to Salt Lake to attend the following wedding receptions ... The Kesler-McAllister and Kesler-Robbins double reception Wednesday evening..."

Both couples honeymooned together by train heading east. Ken and Marion went to Philadelphia where Ken had been attending dental school. Mother and Dad went to Washington, D.C. for a few weeks then continued on to New York City.

Mother worked from 1927 to 1929 for Home Insurance Company, 15 Maiden Lane, New York City. Her boss was Mr. Tice.

In 1927 their address was 3751 79th Street, Apt #2A, Jackson Heights, Long Island, NY. It is interesting to note that in 1930, Adelaide and Weston Vernon Jr. lived in the same housing project.

1927-1929



For the first three years of marriage, while Mother was working, she and Dad wrote love letters to each other from their respective offices at least once and often twice a week even though they were together in the evenings. Dad often in writing to Mother called her by the nickname "Dawn". When they were apart for more than a day, they exchanged letters almost every day. These letters provided

some of the content of this history. Their love was strong. The hours of their being apart at times was hard on Mother. She missed her many friends and family in Salt Lake. She would on occasion go to Philadelphia to visit with her sister, Marion. They spent their first Christmas together with Marion and Ken as married couples. They struggled financially, lived on a budget, and saved to take a trip now and then together.

From Dad's letters I find that adventure was a great part of his personality. He was always taking on new projects, going places, trying to gain knowledge, earning a living, renewing and making friendships, organizing and creating new techniques, solving problems while keeping hold of his gospel principles.

During the summer of 1928, Dad took four weeks to be the Social Director aboard the S.S. President Harding. Mother stayed home. During the ten-day ocean crossing to and from Bremerhaven, Germany and New York City, Dad was responsible for the physical entertainment of the passengers. Rough seas brought on some seasickness. Activities included dances, shuffleboard and tennis. He got to know several of the passengers and crew personnel including the captain. He also took time to learn some of the German language. He spent two days with Henry Kesler (mother's LDS missionary brother) in Berlin and Potsdam. He had studied the history of what he would be seeing before hand so he had some understanding of the museums and monuments he saw. (Dad's maternal grandfather was from Dresden, Germany.) He mentioned the cleanliness of the streets and gardens in Berlin. He was impressed with the German rail and air systems. He describes leaving from Tempelhofer aboard an eighteen passenger 'huge three motored' aircraft all with great efficiency and on schedule. He briefly mentioned Hanover and Bremen.

During the depression Mother and Dad budgeted their money. Mother maintained the financial books and kept expenses under control.

Family Life 1930 – 1949 **1930**



Mother gave birth to their first child, a beautiful daughter, Maridon, about 8 a.m., in The Brooklyn Hospital, 121 DeKalb Avenue, near the Brooklyn Bridge, Sunday, February 2, 1930. Their home address was listed as Tudor Hall, Elmhurst, (Jackson Heights), Long Island. "Mother Kesler" came east for the birth and stayed about two months. She and Dad had taken Mother to the hospital at midnight and then had driven out to Manhattan Beach for a visit together while enjoying the clear, cold morning view of the ocean for an hour or two. All three of Mother's deliveries were very difficult on her physically and special care was needed. The name Maridon was derived from combining the names Marion and Donnette. Mother absolutely adored Maridon, with her beautiful skin, healthy body, brown hair



and large blue eyes. Just before Mother Kesler returned home, Imogene came back to help Mother. Imogene was not yet married and loved babies.

Dad performed the priesthood ordinance of giving Maridon a name and a blessing April 20, 1930. Fred Taylor, Manhattan Branch President, New York District, signed her blessing certificate.

Some time in May or June, Imogene accompanied Mother, Dad and Maridon on a family vacation to Utah by train. Imogene eventually became an RN and cared for newborns at LDS Hospital for many years. In 1960, when Maridon had twin boys, Imogene cared for them while in the nursery of LDS Hospital.

While the family was visiting in Salt Lake the summer of 1930, Maridon received a blessing from her great grandfather, Duncan McNeil McAllister on June 14th. Upon the request of Mother and Dad, Duncan, who was a patriarch, gave her a blessing similar to a father's blessing.

In 1930 Mother, Dad and Maridon moved from their apartment in Jackson Heights, Long Island to their next apartment in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, where Dad supervised the building of the CBS transmitter in Wayne, New Jersey. They lived there for two years. We have pictures with Mountain View Drive referenced on the back, but are not certain if this was their street address. For the past several years (2000 census), Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, has held the distinction of being one of the wealthiest per capita locations in the United States.

1931

At the age of 57, on Wednesday, February 18, 1931 at 12:20 p.m. Nettie (Dad's mother) experienced a stroke, which unexpectedly ended her mortal life. Dad attended her funeral in Salt Lake. I have a note from Louise Farr McAllister, wife of Karl, Dad's brother. (Karl died Thursday, January 16, 1997). She mentioned that Karl had sailed from NYC for his mission to Germany in 1930 and that his mother, Nettie, had seen him off. This places her in NYC along with Mother and Dad in 1930. This was the last time Karl saw his mother. George and Nettie had accompanied their son, Karl, from Salt Lake to New York. En route, they had stopped off at Palmyra, New York, and stayed overnight in the Joseph Smith home. George left NY before Karl set sail, but Nettie stayed to bid her son farewell.

1932

In 1932 they moved to a first floor apartment at 630 E. Lincoln Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York. This was their address for three years. My sister remembers the Ryan family on the second floor of their building. Dad would commute by train into Manhattan, about a 20-minute ride. The church met in a large red brick rented Masonic Hall in Mt. Vernon on Prospect Avenue and Temple Street.



1934

Mother, Dad and Maridon drove out to Utah for a vacation and returned the end of May. Mack accompanied them visiting through Yellowstone, the Black Hills and the Twin Cities. The Empire State Building with its 102 stories, had just been completed. July 10th Dr. Stevenson performed the amputation surgery on Mack's right leg. Grandmother, Mack and Alonzo (Mack's brother) returned to SLC by way of Chicago and the World's Fair.

1935

Mother, Dad and Maridon moved from their Mt. Vernon apartment in 1935 to a little white rental two-story "doll house" with shake shingles (about 1500 sq. ft) at 20 Ridgecrest East in the historical village of Scarsdale, New York, located about three miles south of White Plains and twenty miles northeast of New York City. Lucille Midgley, from Utah, was their realtor and neighbor, two houses apart. Waldo and Lucille divorced in 1933 after the death of their young daughter, Lucille. Mother, Dad, Maridon and Lucille and her son, Van, took a cruise together that same year to Haiti and Jamaica in the Caribbean. Mother and Dad had four of Waldo Midgley watercolor paintings in their home in Scarsdale; one of the "Bronx River Parkway", one of the "Slums of New York", one of the "Parrots"



and one of the "Polar Bears". The several animal drawings which he did were done while visiting the Central Park Zoo in Manhattan. My daughter, Rebecca, has one of the two little chairs (the story of the three bears chairs) purchased for Maridon while in Haiti. The Waldo watercolors were featured in a famous book of art. In his time, Waldo was a very well known artist, whose paintings were in many prestigious collections around the United States.

Concerning the Midgley paintings: Maridon had an art book, which gave a reference to a Doctor Van Midgley in Vero Beach, Florida. The information operator provided a phone number. Van remembered Maridon with fond memories. He was happy to hear from her.

Benny Goodman, orchestra leader and clarinetist, had a large Midgley collection. The Midgleys were good personal friend of Mr. Goodman as well as Mahonri Young, the artistic grandson of Brigham Young. Waldo Midgley was the artisan for the inscription plaques surrounding the THIS IS THE PLACE Monument in Salt Lake City.

Maridon's friend Jean Crawford lived on Post Road. Her rear yard backed up against the McAllister's back yard. Jean's parents, Myrtle and Bill were from Provo, Utah. Bill was an artist and well-known cartoonist for New York newspapers and The New Yorker magazine, designing several of its highly popular covers. His signature was "Galbraith" (his middle name). BYU has his art collection today.

1937

My brother, Richard Standon, was born on Sunday, January 24, 1937, at 3:41 p.m. in the United Hospital, Port Chester, New York. He weighed 7 lbs, 8 3/4 ozs. A Mormon neighbor, Dr. Heber C. Hancock, delivered Richard. His middle name of Standon was derived from a combination of Stanley and Donnette. He was greatly loved by Mother and Dad and Maridon. Richard was healthy, strong and growing nicely. On Sunday, August 15, 1937, Mother called the doctor concerned with a sudden cold Richard had picked up. His condition quickly worsened. The doctors said he had developed a severe case of strep throat. He died on Wednesday, August 18, 1937, at 4:30 a.m. in the United Hospital, just short



of his seventh month. Mother had not left his side for three days. There were no antibiotics in those days.

When, in 1937, another Mormon family moved to Ridgecrest West, Ike and June Stewart, this area became known as "Mormon Hill". (Isaac M. Stewart's office was located at 30 East 42nd Street, NYC.)

1938

Dad baptized Maridon, February 5, 1938, in the font of the Brooklyn Branch located at Gates and Franklin. The font was in the chapel under removable floorboards. Her confirmation was February 6th by Dad who was listed as Westchester Branch President with Arthur H. Neeley as Branch Clerk. Arthur and Eleanor C. Neeley lived at 358 West Avenue, Noroton Heights (Darien), Connecticut.

Grandpa McAllister came back in the fall of 1938 and stayed for almost a year. While working at the New York 1939 Worlds Fair, Grandpa lived on Long Island, but the rest of the time he lived with Mother and Dad and Maridon.

1939

Maridon remembers a very long rainy day in May of 1939, when the three of them drove to a meeting of Church leaders in Harmony, Pennsylvania. This was site of the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood keys of authority in May of 1829 to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

During the summer of 1939, Dad and Grandpa McAllister were busy working on the Utah exhibit for the "New York World's Fair of 1939". Mother and Maridon spent two and a half months at a large private log home up at Candlewood Lake, Connecticut, a summer resort area founded and developed by individuals in Scarsdale. They enjoyed the community swim club and amenities. They had many visitors including Ann Steele and Jean Crawford,

the Haglunds, the Irelands (Maridon's former baby sitters from Mt. Vernon) and Harry and Evelyn Moyle Nelson and daughters. Harry was VP of Macy's New York. Dad would come up for the weekends. Once the fair opened, Maridon remembers attending the Fair many times. Dad had no problem getting passes.

The Start of the Scarsdale Years 1939

During the summer of 1939 Mother and Dad bought a beautiful English Tudor home at 50 Barry Road in Scarsdale. Dad had the kitchen and dining room gutted. He had new plumbing installed along with antique wood paneling in the dining room. In the living room he had the fireplace enhanced with a new mantel, all rooms freshly painted, new carpets, curtains and windows. In October 1939, when they moved in, all the work was still not completed.



Across the street from the Scarsdale train station was a soda fountain. Also, just before the bridge leading over the tracks on Popham Road, there was the Scarsdale Diner. These two places became frequent stops for Mother and Dad during the September-October months of 1939, while the Barry Road home was being modernized.

Maridon enrolled in the Edgewood elementary school. She was nine years old. Evelyn Brooks came to work for us November 1, 1939. Evelyn's husband was

Braman, a porter at CBS. Evelyn stayed with us three years. She left to work in a factory during the war years. Maridon tells me that Evelyn never had any children of her own. "I was her baby."

My personal remembrances of Evelyn are of the fondest nature. She was kind, caring, smart and a wonderful person.

Let me describe a little about the home.

To the left upon entering the home through the front door was the dining room. The living room was to the right with an adjoining sunroom. Dad had French walnut paneling installed in the dining room obtained from the stately Vanderbilt Mansion on 52nd Street and Madison Avenue. In 1939 CBS purchased and converted the mansion into radio studios. The paneling had been secured during the demolition of the old mansion.

In the living room, on the wall framing both sides of the front window were bookshelves. On the back wall was an eye-catching fireplace. On both sides and across the top of the fireplace, Dad had antique Dutch tiles cemented into the hearth creating an elegant boarder. These tiles were also acquired from the Vanderbilt Mansion and dated back to the 19th Century in Holland. Each tile had been hand painted using a blue paint on a white background. Each portrayed a different Dutch scene, a windmill, a cottage, a landscape, etc. There had been about 20 tiles in the collection. Due to different sizes and quantity, some of the tiles were never used around the boarder of the fireplace. Some of these were given to friends. With the move to NYC in 1951, the tiles were removed and placed in a packing barrel. In cleaning out the 1115 5th Avenue storeroom years later, many of the tiles were lost around 1975. Three tiles ended up in the possession of my sister that summer. Dad had given a tile to Melba Smith when the

home was sold in 1951. Maridon eventually received that tile from Melba about 1984.

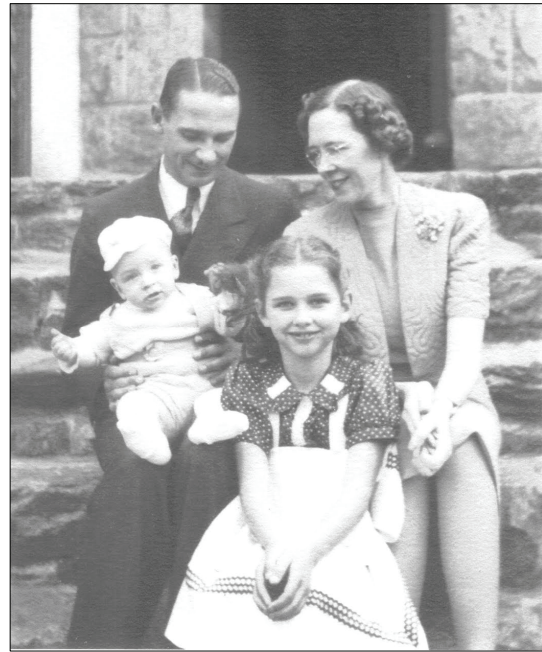
It is estimated Mother and Dad bought the home on Barry Road for about \$15,000 in 1939. In 1951 it was probably sold for about \$35,000. In 1994, homes on the street were selling for \$400,000. On a visit to Scarsdale June 2, 2010, the homes on Barry Road were priced near the \$1,300,000 level.

The Scarsdale schools were considered to be the best in the United States at that time (late 1930s). That is the primary reason Dad wanted to live in Scarsdale. Maridon first attended the Greenacres Elementary School. After 1939, she was enrolled in Edgewood.

1940

I am sure that it was the loss of their first son that rekindled within the hearts of Mother and Dad the desire to provide an earthly home for another child of our Heavenly Parents. Thus it was that during the early morning hours of Monday, April 8, 1940, I was born into this world in the Westchester County Hospital in White Plains, New York. Maridon remembers Dad receiving the call from the hospital about 4 a.m.. I have been told that Mother was in labor for the better part of a full day.

One incident might speak volumes concerning Dad's cavalier attitude seen on occasion. It was the day of my receiving a name and a blessing in the Westchester Branch. Mother and Dad had agreed that my name was to be Stanley McNeil McAllister. Dad stood up and pronounced the name of Kenneth Fielding McAllister.



Half the congregation gasped. Mother was in shock. Maridon remembers the event very well. I was named Kenneth, after his best friend Ken Robbins, and Fielding after Fielding Kimball Smith (Mother's cousin), a friend from LCL days. Mother sometimes called me Keith (as a nickname) up until I was about two. (Maridon's children called me "Kiki" for many years.)



Ken Robbins played this same tactic when he named his daughter Donna Jo (Donnette Josephine) after the two grandmothers. The planned name was to be Valerie since she was born on Valentine's Day.

Mother (Donnette) combined her name with that of her sister (Marion) to form the name for Maridon, my sister's name.

Mother's brother, Henry, and his wife, Nancy, named their son Henry Stanley Kesler, 'Stanley' after Dad.

World War II

1943

During the month of January 1943, Dad attended Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, "Third Army Orientation Course". About 80 of the country's top business and industry leaders were summoned for war related meetings. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army conceived the idea of the Army Orientation Course. The course was directed by Major General Karl Truesdell, Commandant. Some of the class titles were: Training, Distribution, Weapons, Security, Transportation Costs, Fuel, Logistics, Supply, Evacuation, and Communications. One of Dad's roommates was Mr. Ed Wilson. Their friendship extended beyond war's end. Edward Foss Wilson owned the Wilson Meat Packing Company of



Chicago, Illinois. Later in life he founded and developed the Wilson Sports Wear and Tennis Company.



During the 1943-44 years, heating oil was difficult to get so Mother bought heavy antique tapestry draperies to close off the dining room and living room during the winter months. Shoe rationing was strict and required coupons mostly used for shoes for me as my feet were growing. Meat was rationed. Mother would stand in line at the A & P store with her war issued coupons to buy a case of tuna fish for Maridon's lunch sandwiches. Mother was an airplane spotter on the roof of the local fire station. Dad was a block warden reporting blackout violators. Evelyn went to work in a war related production plant.

1945

Kay Robbins Jr. lived with us during the spring of 1945. He and Maridon rode bikes to school. She was in the 10th grade and Kay was in the 7th. Evelyn was not with us. Kay had the upper loft where Evelyn resided when she was in our home. That year I started kindergarten at Edgewood.

I remember the morning of April 12th when the phone rang and Mother displayed great emotions of concern. The news was spread by phone that President Franklin D.

Roosevelt had died and Harry S. Truman was now the President.

During most of the war years, William Paley was in Europe while Paul Kesten was the management head of CBS. Dad had supervised the building of transmitters and maintenance of all radio broadcast, programming and physical facilities for CBS in New York.

1946

Dr. Thomas William (Bill) and Edith Teudt Stevenson's daughter, Jean, was a senior at Emma Willard School for Girls, a college preparatory boarding school near Troy, N.Y. the fall term of 1946. Their beautiful home and farm was located at Baines Corners, Mount Kisco, N.Y., about a forty-five minute drive north of Scarsdale. As a family we spent many weekends at their home and farm. They in turn visited us in Scarsdale. Bill had his medical practice in New York City. During the 1940-60s, Bill was ranked one of the top plastic surgeons in the country.

Mother and Dad, wanted the best for their daughter. They decided that Maridon should also attend Emma Willard her senior year. Upon inquiry they learned that Emma Willard required at least two years attendance for graduation. Therefore, Maridon was enrolled repeating her junior year of high school.

September of 1946 Dad included the following in letters: the 18th Maridon left for Emma Willard by train. Ken Lake, Tillie, and Jerry left to return to Utah by way of Washington DC. Leone and Imogene Linford stopped for a visit on their return from Boston to Utah. The department stores were coping with labor strikes lasting seven weeks, preventing the delivery and receipt of merchandise and maintenance supplies. Dad was working six days a week.

While Maridon was away at boarding school, each month either she would come home for a weekend or Mother and Dad would drive up to the school for a day visit with her and her friends. The drive each way was about three hours.

I remember when a large cabinet was delivered to our home in Scarsdale. Maridon remembers the TV being in our home before she left for Emma Willard, a private boarding school for girls, in Troy, NY, in September of 1946. Kay Robbins, who spent a year with us in 1945-1946, remembers the TV being in our home when he was there. It was the first time I had seen a TV. We were one of the first families to own a TV in the NY area. The picture was reflected off a mirrored cabinet top since the picture tube lay flat facing upward. The picture size was less than ten inches. In those days you watched more "test patterns" than actual shows since broadcasting started about four in the afternoon. At the conclusion of each day's programming the Star Spangled Banner short video clip would sign off from the DuMont T.V. network. Howdy Doody was the hit of the day for children and Hop-along Cassidy (Bill Boyd) was the children's favorite cowboy star. Uncle Henry Kesler was Bill Boyd's friend and manager.

For Christmas, Maridon was home and then returned to Emma Willard to resume her junior year of high school. I was in the first grade at Edgewood Elementary.

Mother suffered a severe accident about this time. While taking a bath she was severely burned when the hot water faucet broke off from the wall and sprayed a torrent of scalding water all over her body. Dr. Stevenson personally came to the home that night and every day thereafter for many weeks changing her dressings and providing his medical assistance.

1947

Back in the 1940s the Latter-day Saints in NY would assemble in Cottage Meetings to discuss important church and national issues. Dad recorded January 19, 1947 that Lt. Col Star Nelson had reported on his experiences working and serving in Berlin and the concerns he had about the Russians and the failures of the “Roosevelt regime”. It is very interesting how the Lord has placed key LDS people in various world positions.

Apostle Ezra Taft Benson, while in NY February 23, 1947 for Stake Conference, gave a Cottage Meeting on the Church’s role in administering relief to the European countries via the welfare program. Dad noted that if the government handled its affairs the way the Church did, there would be less waste and more efficient relief.

Maridon tells me that Dad sponsored a celebration dinner for the University of Utah basketball team where they all received watches when they came to NY in 1945 and won the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) at Madison Square Garden against St. John. Our family had seats on the playing floor behind the team. Vadel Peterson was the coach. Mother knew Vadel from when he rented a room from Grandmother at 264 University Street while attending the ‘U’ as an undergraduate. He and Mother were very close friends. Mother had Vadel’s varsity sweater. Vadel always made sure Mother and Dad had front row seats. Vadel was credited with introducing the one arm hook shot into the game of basketball.

The village of Scarsdale is located near the United States Military Academy at West Point. Until 1976 West Point was an all male academy. Cadets were allowed to

attend chaperoned dances and activities with young ladies from local high schools and colleges. Maridon, while staying at The Thayer Hotel on campus, attended several of their football games, formal dances and summer events 1947-48. Mother and Dad were great supporters of these events and provided necessary transportation.

The Scarsdale Birch Brook Inn was a quaint historical gathering place where our parents and their friends would gather for dinner. In a letter from Mother, she noted that the family had Thanksgiving dinner there “with a 6:30 pm reservation”. The charm and beauty of the old inn no longer exists.

The letter Mother wrote to Maridon, November 27, 1947 (Thanksgiving Day) is one I must write out in part for this history.

“Last night Ken and I started sneezing and dripping so we doctored up and went to bed deciding not to go to the Parade. Today is sunny and warm for the first Thanksgiving in ages. Isn’t that always the way? However we do have television and I don’t think we will ever go to N.Y. to see it again. We saw everything. Close up and far away. N.B.C. does an excellent job. The Winslow kids and Vicky came over. The Scotts are away.

I have 4 weenies in the house – not much for a Thanksgiving dinner – so I phoned Birchbrook – and they will take us at 6:30 p.m.

Dad just announced that he is not going back to work until Monday. Miss Shaver and the other executives are all taking a four-day holiday and she told Dad he had to. I am really surprised that he is going to mind. Love and everything – Mother”

Mother had a unique way of getting down to the nitty-gritty.

Mother Learns That She Has Cancer – Her Last 12 Months - 1948

In May of 1948, Maridon came home from Emma Willard for a special weekend that the girls had once each semester. After picking her up at the Harmon Station twenty miles north west of Scarsdale, we went to dinner at an old Inn nearby. Then we drove to Mt. Kisco to see the Stevensons. While there mother had Dr. Bill Stevenson examine a small lump (the size of a pea) under her left armpit. Nothing more was said. Maridon returned to school to prepare for final exams.

June 4, 1948 Mother had her first major surgery at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, Harkness Pavilion, 620 West 168th Street, NYC. She had been referred to and was under the care of a cancer specialist. Dr. Stevenson was head of plastic surgery at the hospital.

Maridon graduated from Emma Willard Friday, June 11th. Mother could not attend, as she was still in the hospital recovering from surgery. Dad took Jean Crawford, Maridon's childhood friend to the two-day graduation affair. I stayed home with Evelyn.

In July Mother was well enough for a drive to Washington DC and Jefferson's home at Monticello. Dortha Sharp went with us. Dortha was studying piano in NY and staying with Howard and Marion Bennion on 96th Street in Manhattan.

August 1948, while driving Maridon to Utah for her first year at the university, Mother found more lumps, this time on the right side. October Mother had her second major surgery.

Maridon came home for Christmas. Mother was very happy in having the family together. We had a family picture taken Christmas Day while visiting the Haglunds.



We did not know it, but these would be her last few weeks with us. In reading her last few letters, we realize now that although she had great faith, she also felt that she wanted to cherish every moment she had with her family. I remember taking Maridon to the Scarsdale train station December 31 for her return to Utah. Maridon and Mother hugged and kissed their farewells, not fully realizing that this would be their last embrace here on earth.

1949

The first week of 1949, Mother was able to get around fairly well, with slight signs of fatigue but not bedridden.

What they did not know until January 9th was that Maridon still had not arrived back at the University of Utah. She had made her connection in Chicago January 1st on the Union Pacific's City of San Francisco. Her train out of Chicago got stranded somewhere in the frozen plains of Nebraska during a horrendous blizzard where drifts covered the tracks and most of the engine and cars. The train was buried under a

mountain of snow. For four or five days all those people on the train survived with very little warmth and meager food supplies as temperatures remained below zero. In order to provide some warmth, passengers were confined to either the dinning car or the rear observation car wrapped in blankets. Mother and Dad had no idea that Maridon had not arrived as expected in Salt Lake Monday night the 3rd. Not having heard from her by Friday the 7th, they began making calls to try to locate her. Maridon's phone call from Denver at 6 am on a Sunday morning alleviated some of the worry but it took another week to completely recover. Life Magazine covered the story in its January 17th Vol. 26 No 3 issue.

On January 8th, Mother's condition turned for the worst, being in great pain and not able to fully rest, she developed a cough and remained in bed most of the time from this day forward.

January 9th, Dad located Evelyn Brooks who was in Alabama with her mother. Evelyn said she would come for a couple of weeks starting January 31. She came to live with us for a month and ended up staying two and a half years.

January 19, 1949 Mother was readmitted to Memorial Hospital, 68th Street and York Avenue (444 East 68th) for further radiation treatments. Her primary physician was Dr. Rulon Rawson, cancer dedicated, son-in-law of Apostle Levi Edgar Young. Dr. Lenz administered the X-rays. Dr. Stevenson was an advisor and part of her support group. Cancer research in 1949 was in its infancy and Mother suffered tremendously from the radiation and drug treatments.

While Mother was hospitalized, Dad hired a West Indian lady to help around the house. She lacked in Evelyn's abilities but was a support for me until Evelyn returned.

Evelyn was in the home Monday through Friday. Mrs. Alverson, who had helped Mother with my care in the past, helped on Saturdays when needed.

Dad had sent a letter to Mother's sister, Marion, asking if she would consider coming to Scarsdale to help with Mother's needs and lend moral support. January 22nd, she arrived by train and went immediately to see Mother in the hospital. Mother's hospital room was always full of flowers from her many friends. Many of them she gave away to those who came to visit.

Dad was responsible for all the details connected with the L & T Millburn store opening February 8th and 9th. He arranged for a special escort to accompany Marion for all the events. Mother had been a part of the Westchester store opening in February of 1948. Marion was able to give Mother a report of all the events she had missed.

February 9th, Mother returned home from Memorial hospital completely drained and very ill after three weeks of daily cancer treatments. Dad had made every sacrifice in providing Mother with the best care possible at the time. The pressures of work, uncertainty of outcome, worry and family concerns must have been heavy burdens for Dad as well as the pain and suffering endured by Mother during these days.

Dad turned 49 on the 10th. Marion fixed a delicious chicken dinner before catching the Commodore Vanderbilt 5:30 pm out of Harmon.

In addition to his second store opening, Dad maintained his school board responsibilities and Church assignments.

Just about every day from February 10th to March 6th, one or two church friends sat by Mother's bedside to visit with her and carry out her wishes. Mother continued to give away her many floral arrangements to

friends and neighbors with notes of love and appreciation. Eleanor C. Neeley and Phoebe H. Stringham were two of her very dear friends who kept a faithful vigil.

February 21, Dr. Rawson gave Mother hope that she would recover. Mother's health though steadily declined. Mother knew about March 1st that she would never recover and that death was fast approaching. She wrote to her mother concerning burial clothing. She was readmitted to the hospital Sunday, March 6th, 1949.

March 13th Mother celebrated her 47th birthday. I was allowed to visit with her for a few minutes where we shared a final embrace and kiss.

Maridon took her last final exam of winter quarter March 17, 1949. She did not know Mother had been readmitted to the hospital.

Mother passed away at 3 a.m. on Friday, March 18, 1949, in the Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital, 68th Street and York Ave, Room 1011, NYC, five days into her 47th year.

Early on the morning of the 18th Aunt Marion called Maridon to come over for breakfast to celebrate the end of the quarter. Upon arriving at the Robbins' home, many family members were there. It was at this moment that she learned of Mother's passing.

Mother was buried with the sterling silver earrings inset with a blue stone given to her by Maridon on her last birthday. These were very sad days for all the family and branch members. Harold B. Lee had given Mother a blessing in the Fall of 1948 saying she would be well enough to see me, her son, Kenneth, grown. By February of 1949 she was in such agony she asked Elder Lee to be released from the blessing as she felt it was the only thing holding her here. He

did so, and she passed away within a few days.

(Elder Lee helped Dad bless Maridon's twins, Bruce and James. Maridon and John were living in Elder Lee's ward prior to the birth of the twins, and since they had recently moved, they returned to their former ward to have them blessed. Marilyn and I are grateful to Elder Lee for performing our marriage sealing in the Salt Lake Temple June 20, 1967. Elder Lee ordained Dad the Stake President of the NY Stake in 1960. Elder Lee also conducted Dad's funeral in Salt Lake, Friday, June 26, 1970.)

On the night of the 19th, Dad and I left by train with Mother in a casket for Salt Lake arriving Monday. The Salt Lake funeral was held on Tuesday.

A memorial service for Mother was held at the Masonic Temple (where the Westchester Branch met for Sunday services) in Mt. Vernon on Saturday the 19th about noon. Branch members and many non-member friends and neighbors paid their last respects.

I remember the viewing in the living room of the Robbins home at 1133 Yale Avenue. The funeral was at the Garden Park Ward, 1150 Yale Avenue. (Sterling W. Sill used to be a Bishop of the ward.) The Church was filled to capacity. Uncle Joseph Fielding Smith read her favorite scriptures and the McMasters sang. I remember sitting on the front row. I also remember we had a police escort to the Salt Lake City cemetery. It was an overcast day.

Carolyn Wilson sent me a one-page write-up, November 5, 1998, of Mother's funeral. A few lines of what were written..."Invocation rendered by Bishop David A. Smith at the Robbins' home. Organ prelude at chapel prior to service by Sister Leah Johnson." Bishop C. Bicknell

Robbins, Uncle Ken's cousin, gave the introductions. The church was filled to capacity. Many people of "Civic, Church, Educational and Social affairs" were in attendance. Bishop Robbins acknowledged Mother had graduated from LDS High School and the 'U'. Following their marriage, Mother and Dad had briefly lived in Washington, D.C., prior to their going to NY. Acknowledgment was made of the fact that there had been other memorial services in Mother's honor by "religious organizations" other than of the LDS faith in the Scarsdale area. "So close was she to her neighbors and her many friends there that they held services in her behalf and are mourning at her passing."

A day after the funeral, Dad took Maridon and me to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. We stayed two or three days at the El Tovar Lodge. Then we drove to St. George and then back to Salt Lake.

From a letter dated April 9th (Saturday) Dad wrote to Maridon. I quote the following: "We arrived home safely yesterday morning at 8:15. The Stewarts and the Stevensons were at Harmon. Evelyn was at the house and had every thing in tiptop shape. It was good to be home, although I assure you it was a very sickening sensation to walk into the house knowing that your mother was not there. It's the very first time since we were married that she has not been with me or at home to welcome me after one of my trips. Kenny felt it too, and mentioned it."

The two months following mother's passing, Dad and Maridon exchanged letters two or three times a week. She told him about her class work, trying out for Spurs, and taking a golf class. Dad wrote back expressing how much he missed his wife and daughter. He mentioned that in 1925 while living in Washington, he and Ike Stewart had frequently played golf. He wanted her to come home when finals were

over. She was to take the train and leave her car with a family member. Dad and I met her at Harmon. In June the three of us spent a week together on Martha's Vineyard at the Gay Head resort. He mentioned that he and mother had vacationed there years before and how much they both had loved the experience being together.

Dad personally answered the over 225 letters of condolence waiting upon his arrival home from the funeral with a personal note written in his own hand. Dad had a unique penmanship of writing, very distinctive print, with a slight slant, yet very much his own. Maridon often called it 'beautiful'.

Dad's Career – 1925 - 1929

It was during his time in Washington DC from 1924 through 1925, that Dad became interested in real estate, "using his vision to realize the future of building sights". One of Dad's great gifts was his ability to visualize a concept, make a plan, conceptualize its capabilities and bring the entire vision to fruition.

Dad's Washington D.C. address in early 1926 was 2410 20th Street N.W. Although Dad gained great experience under Senator Smoot, he realized that working for the government would not be as rewarding as working in the business world.

Dad left Washington, D.C. in the spring of 1926 and went to NYC. His first address was 643 East 7th, Brooklyn, NY. He returned to familiar territory of his missionary days. Dad wrote Mother a letter Tuesday, June 1, 1926 while living at 140 Wadsworth Avenue, Apt 62, NYC, expressing his feelings and vision of the future.

Dad started working in New York City in 1926 with the real estate development firm of Cushman & Wakefield located at 30 East 42nd Street. Dad was driven to get an

education by attending night school at New York University (1928-1928). He would take classes to get ideas, and then he would work to apply what he learned. He worked long and hard at his vocation. He wanted to get ahead and be the best at whatever he did.

Dad's prior work experience under Senator Smoot, where he directed government office space allocation, organization and setup helped him tremendously at Cushman and Wakefield. Among his responsibilities in the private sector were finding new clients for leased office space throughout the greater New York area. Cushman and Wakefield either owned or acted as broker for the major metropolitan office buildings. New buildings were constantly being built and old ones rehabbed. Dad got to read and understand blue prints. He became acquainted with architects, builders, sub-contractors, attorneys, zoning laws and regulations, labor organizations and their unions, accountants and bankers.

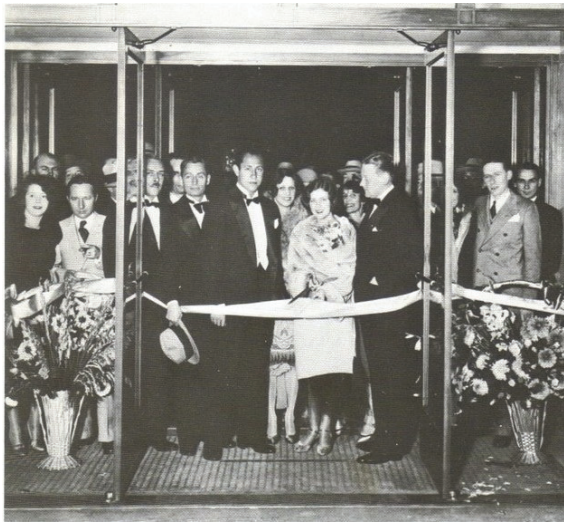
During the spring and summer of 1928, Dad expanded upon his leadership and skills while working for Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. New York City. He saw a real need for assisting clients in the complete planning, design and implementation of expanded, consolidated and modernization of office layouts and work environments. He drafted a very detailed proposal for Mr. Bernard Wakefield's consideration with profit incentives. With approval by J. Clydesdale Cushman and Mr. Wakefield, a three-page news release was issued Saturday October 13, 1928.

Press Copy – "Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. Starts Office Planning Service for Tenants in Mid-Manhattan Skyscrapers - An innovation in real estate circles affecting the interior layouts of Mid-Manhattan's wealth of office buildings was announced by J. Clydesdale Cushman, President of

Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., making public the installation of a new division in that firm to be known as the Office Planning Service Department under the management of G. Stanley McAllister, an expert in office layout, decoration and allocation of offices, suites and floors for large corporations and individuals moving into the mid-town district. Mr. McAllister was for three years secretary of the Public Building Commission in Washington, and had charge of all arrangements, assignments, re-allocations and office planning for all departments of the Federal Government in that city and one of his memorable tasks was the moving of the Pension Department consisting of 750 employees a distance of two miles to the Interior Department building with a loss in working time of the clerks of only one half a day... "

The release states that the new services had already been satisfactorily used and implemented with economies of time and money by firms including: the Harriman Company (stock brokerage house), Col. Lindbergh's offices, Manning, Maxwell & Moore, Western Electric Co., Carter Film Co., Fenner & Beane stock brokers as well as Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. at 30 East Forty-second street.

During 1929, while at Cushman and Wakefield, Dad located office and studio space for the **Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.** Dad's abilities as a manager, decision maker and person who could get the job done, earned him the recognition of **CBS** founder and president, Mr. William (Bill) S. Paley.



July 1929 CBS moved its small headquarters from the old Paramount Tower to four floors (two of them were double floors for broadcasting purposes) into a modern building at Fifty-second Street and Madison Avenue. For the formal opening ceremonies, President Hoover spoke over the CBS network from a hookup in the White House. Olive Shea, Miss Radio of 1929, cut the ribbon. Dad was in the newspaper photo of the occasion.

Dad was hired and made Manager, Construction and Building Operations Department of CBS, New York. He had personnel responsibilities and broadcasting tower construction. This was a fortuitous blessing both for Dad, his family and the Church. With the stock market collapse in October 1929, vacant Manhattan office space rose sharply.

Dad's Career – 1930 – 1946

I have an envelope with a Wednesday, April 16, 1930 postmark addressed: " Mr. McAllister, % Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., Lexington Ave and 52nd Street, New York City, NY " This must have been an off-site temporary location since the office I remember Dad having was located at 485 Madison Avenue and 52nd Street.

During 1931-32, Dad over saw the erection of a transmission tower, 665 feet in height, at Bound Brook, New Jersey. It was the new "Vertical Aerial WABC station, the key station of CBS".



While inspecting CBS towers and transmitters, Dad flew from St. Paul to Chicago on Northwest Airways with pilot Mal Freeburg, co-pilot Joe Kimm and seven other passengers. The date was Tuesday April 12, 1932. At 2000 feet, 4 p.m., the propeller on the left outboard motor cracked and broke off tangling in the left landing struts. Mal shut off the ignition of the crippled motor. Flying over the town of Wabasha, Wisconsin, Mal tried to shake the propeller loose over the Mississippi River but it missed and hit a vacant field. Then Mal safely did a one-wheel landing on Wabasha Field, changed planes then headed on to Chicago. Dad wrote several letters of gratitude for the 'steady nerve' and cool head of the pilot. Both pilot and co-pilot received recognition from the President of the United States, Mr. Herbert Clark Hoover.

Dad appreciated President Hoover's philosophy of limited government especially with growth of the private business sector. Dad met with Herbert Hoover in his private residence in one of the towers of the Waldorf Astoria prior to Mr. Hoover's passing in October of 1964.

Dad was always very appreciative of Mr. Hoover's out look on life.

Dad was instrumental in implementing the idea of securing and restructuring older theaters into radio broadcasting studios. Free tickets were then given out by the program-advertising sponsors whose customers would attend the radio broadcasts. The idea proved very successful

In this capacity Dad had to work with construction unions. He also had to negotiate all the union contracts for porters, musicians, painters, etc. When they would strike, it was particularly stressful, as he had to make sure the broadcasts aired according to schedule. His travels during the 1930s took him to Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland, Washington D.C., Salt Lake, Dallas, St. Paul and Charlotte, North Carolina.

There is brief mention in correspondence during the early 1930s of Dad assisting CBS with broadcasting brief segments of boat races on the Charles River in Boston.

One day in the spring of 1932, Dad received a phone call from within the CBS management channels that a Sunday morning 30-minute time slot had become immediately available due to a cancellation of a previously scheduled religious program. Dad had previously asked for and was now given the challenge of putting together a program for airing on Sunday, less than a week away. Dad responded with his typical "no problem" confidence, although panic was probably the feeling at the time. Dad called on the local musical and speaking talents of LDS members of the Manhattan and Brooklyn branches and met the pressing deadline. Compliments resulted in an extension of the invitation. Dad requested for a permanent 30-minute time slot, which was granted. Dad contacted the Church leadership in Salt Lake to explore the possibility that the half

hour program might be produced live for a nationwide broadcast. The proposal was accepted Thursday, September 15, 1932 and programming started airing over the CBS network and its affiliates. KSL had switched its affiliate from NBC to CBS just before this happened. MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD FROM THE CROSSROADS OF THE WEST has been continuously broadcast on the CBS network since 1932.

Sometime in 1933, CBS sent Dad and a sizable crew to do a documentary on William Randolph Hearst and his spectacular mansion at San Simeon, California. Dad had his own private bungalow, spent over a week on site and swam in the spectacular "Neptune pool" featured in the 1960 movie, Spartacus.

(William S. Paley married Dorothy Hart Hearst in May of 1932. She had previously been married to Jack Hearst, third son of William Randolph Hearst.)

About this time, the Pixton sisters, Lois and Pat, from Salt Lake, served as Dad's secretaries. In 2006, my daughter, Heather, married Colby Park, a grandson of Pat Pixton. We learned of the connection during their wedding breakfast.

I found an article in The Deseret News written by Roscoe A. Grover, an LDS radio and news writer-commentator, dated Saturday December 22, 1934. Mr. Grover interviewed Dad and inquired about his work experiences as a youth. Dad "recalled that he started 'on a shoe string', Well, not exactly that; he was a 'heel maker at Z.C.M.I. shoe factory...'I was paid by the heel'...Next he was office boy in the Mutual Creamery earning \$8 a week. Then he worked for the Utah State fair; George Carpenter gave him a job as usher at the Paramount (theater). He stayed there three years and became head usher and finally assistant cashier. Today (1934) as part of

his job, he manages the old Hudson Theater and the famous Avon - two New York theaters which he rebuilt and renamed for radio broadcasting..." Dad summed it up by saying that the key to any success was to 'think and work hard'.

Dad loved to solve problems. When faced with a challenge his favorite response was "No problem..."



Dad built the CBS radio studio for Major Bowes, a program searching for young talent known on the radio as the Amateur Hour. Maridon attended several of his Saturday morning broadcasts. Major Bowes was one of the talent scouts who discovered Frank Sinatra.

Maridon remembers her Saturday morning visits to see the radio broadcast of Nila Mack's children theatre popularly known as Let's Pretend. The theater became the Ed

Sullivan Theater where David Letterman now has his show.



May 21, 1937, Leopold Stokowski, Universal Pictures Company, Inc., sent Dad a letter pertaining to a joint project they were undertaking and expressed his desire for Dad to return to Universal City, California very soon. Mr. Stokowski, famed orchestra leader, was working on the film 'One Hundred Men and a Girl'.

During 1943-44, Dad built a transmitter tower for European broadcasts on Pea Island out in Long Island Sound. Maridon remembers attending outings at a small club with access to a beachfront on a tiny island near Pea Island off shore from Larchmont. Due to gas rationing, trips were limited. Gas coupons were used to get us to church meetings in Mt. Vernon, south of Scarsdale.

Several of Dad's letters refer to his business contacts with Ben Eischwald, owner of the B. Eischwald & Co. Electrical Contractors with offices at 51 East 42nd Street. Ben was a friend of Dad's well into his days with Lord & Taylor. In addition to work on the CBS towers, Ben did the electrical work for the Utah Exhibit in the 1939 World's Fair on Long Island. While at CBS, in 1945 Dad was asked to build a radio station and broadcast facility at the United Nations temporary headquarters in Flushing Meadows, New York. Mr. Eischwald did

all the electrical work for the United Nations building being built on Manhattan Island from 1945 to 1947.



Dad's secretary was Ms. Eleanor Benedict. She went on a couple of vacations with us and seemed very much a part of Dad's world. She was very accommodating in meeting the requirements of his busy schedule. Dad was very demanding on secretaries but when he found one he liked, they worked long and hard together and he tried to hang on to the good ones.

Dad built the CBS radio studio for Arthur Godfrey, who came to NYC from Washington DC. Eventually Arthur became a household name to thousands of people over the radio airways. Dad helped many people launch a career in broadcasting. Among his friends were Art Linkletter, Edward R. Murrow, Jack Benny, Gracie Allen and George Burns, Andre Kostelanetz, Lily Pons and Major Bowes.

During the war, Paley was involved with government related assignments and was out of the country most of the time. The News Department had grown in size and prominence. Television was given more funding for development.

With anticipated growth, in January 1946, Frank Stanton became President of CBS when William S. Paley was moved "upstairs" as Chairman. Dad and Stanton had been in conflict for many years regarding styles of management. Dad knew it would never work out between them.

Dad's Career – 1946 - 1959

In June of 1946 Dad left CBS and joined Lord and Taylor as VP of store operations and new store development. Dad made a checklist on a yellow ledger pad during the time he was contemplating leaving CBS. He had two columns marked with reasons for leaving and staying.

Maridon remembers the "horrible days of frustration and concern over the decision" to change employment. He interviewed extensively with other companies, first going to Chicago then Los Angeles.

An inter-office memo from Adrian Murphy, CBS Executive Offices, 485 Madison Avenue, NYC dated June 10, 1946 stated "We regret very much to announce that Mr. G. Stanley McAllister has resigned as Director of Construction and Building Operations to accept an executive position with Lord and Taylor."

Dad left CBS Friday June 14, 1946. Dad had been with CBS since September 1929. Those who knew Dad and had worked closely with him all expressed their sorrow in seeing him leave. Two hundred and fifty of his closest staff composed a departing 4-page tribute upon his last day at CBS.

As suburbs grew and communities expanded away from the cities, retail

establishments followed the growth patterns. In 1945 Dorothy Shaver (1893-1959) became president of Lord and Taylor Department Stores, NYC, after more than twenty years with the company. She hired Dad and for the next thirteen years they worked very closely together in establishing Lord and Taylor as one of the major retail department stores in the nation.

Thursday January 9th, 1947 Miss Shaver announced that Dad had been promoted to Vice President and General Manager of Lord and Taylor with responsibility over "all personnel, plant maintenance and supervision, receiving, marking and shipping, alterations, warehouses, lunchrooms and cafeterias, customer services, adjustments, alterations, purchasing and protection." It was the third level of management, only topped by Miss. Shaver (President) and Mr. Simms (Senior VP).

I found a note from Dorothy Shaver to Mother and Dad just after I was born, April 1940. It is surmised that Dad knew her either through his building contacts at the United Nations or CBS. Lord and Taylor built its first suburban store in Manhasset in 1941. In a letter Dad restated that Miss. Shaver hired him specifically to oversee the construction of two new suburban stores, one in Westchester, NY, February 1948 and one in Millburn, New Jersey, February 1949.

Upon the death of Miss Shaver in 1959, Dad spoke at her funeral, which was indicative of their business friendship and respect for one another.

One characteristic of Dad's leadership was that he would set a plan in place with the necessary manpower, and then he would step back and delegate responsibility.

He worked very closely with Dorothy Shaver on the annual awards dinner held at

the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The set up and practice sessions ran well past the midnight hour. Dad was right in the thick of things with his shirtsleeves rolled up, giving direction and making last minute corrections. Once I was called upon to deliver something to Dad during their rehearsal. He was very appreciative and took the time to introduce me to a few of the people.

The first suburban store Dad built for L&T was near our home in Westchester, NY, located north of the Lake Isle Country Club on the White Plains Post Road (US 22). Construction began early in 1947. At various stages of its development, Dad took me to visit the site. I remember walking through the field prior to ground breaking, being in the building as concrete was poured, watching as the parking lot was paved and the curb cuts made, observing the brick facing being applied and painted white, seeing lighting, heating and air conditioning ductwork installed. One week prior to opening they were still hand painting the artistic designs on the walls, installing fixtures and carpeting in preparation for a major cleaning and stocking. Several weeks prior to the opening the weather turned unusually warm for the season. Maridon remembers we had a huge snowstorm the latter part of February 1948 just a day before the official store opening. The cherry trees had their blossoms retarded. Employees stayed up all night prior to the official store opening and tied artificial blossoms on the trees by hand. The store opened on schedule to the delight of all who attended. Mother attended the store opening festivities. Due to stress, Dad was laid low with a severe case of painful shingles after the opening.

The second suburban store Dad was responsible for building was in Millburn, NY. Marion, Mother's sister, attended the store opening on the 8th, providing Mother with first hand details.

The Millburn store was on an eight and a half acre plot and comprised more than 82,000 square feet. It was patterned after the Westchester (Scarsdale) store. It was considered a very high fashion department store, also having a Boy Scout section and a Blum's candy counter. The DuMont Television Network filmed the day's event for television.

Lord & Taylor at 38th Street, and Saks Fifth Avenue at 49th Street, were the two premier stores in New York City on Fifth Avenue during the 1940s and 1950s. Four other very popular stores on 5th Avenue, that are no longer in existence, were B. Altman, Arnold Contestable, Best and Company and Bonwit Teller. One that is still around is Bergdorf Goodman. The main L&T store at 424 Fifth Ave. New York City extended the entire block between 38th and 39th Streets on the west side of Fifth Avenue. Dad's corner office was on the tenth floor, south side of the building. There were additional offices on the eleventh floor.

Dad's Career – 1959 – 1970

In 1959 Dad joined the management of Associated Dry Goods Corporation, 417 Fifth Avenue, which was the parent company of Lord and Taylor. He was responsible for the site selection, design and construction of over 30 stores for Associated Dry Goods from New York to California. The divisions of "Associated" were L&T (NY), Hahne & Co. (NJ), The William Heneger Co. (Buffalo), Powers (Minneapolis), Stewarts (Baltimore), Stewart Dry Good (Louisville), J. W. Robinson (LA), Sibley Lindsay and Curr (Rochester), The Diamond (West Virginia), Erie Dry Goods (Erie), H & S Pagues (Cincinnati), Goldwaters (Phoenix), Stix, Baer and Fuller (St. Louis), The Denver Dry (Denver) and Joseph Horne (Pittsburgh).

Dad was also responsible for many store remodels. He was the first to negotiate with the Irvine Company in Newport Beach to anchor a shopping center, now known as Fashion Island, with a J. W. Robinson store.

Additional Notes of Interest While at Lord and Taylor

The store symbol was a long-stemmed red rose. It was featured on their elegant gift boxes, shopping bags and all advertising. I must not forget the elastic silver colored rope used to secure gift purchases. All ads were hand drawn, no photos, with the distinctive Lord & Taylor script logo.



424 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York
10018

The store elevators were large and elegant and operated off a hydraulic water system. Dad installed the first escalators in the Fifth Avenue store. During construction (the late 1950s and early 1960s) extra effort was required not to interfere with normal business operations.

The L&T windows were regarded as works of art. Their planning, execution and concept was under the Projection Council, which was part of Dad's stewardship as a manager of all store operations. The large six windows on Fifth Avenue were on hydraulic platforms. The displays were assembled in the basement then carefully raised to the street level for the viewing 5th Avenue public to enjoy.

L&T was famous for its Christmas windows. There was always a great secrecy and anticipation surrounding what

each year's windows would be. L&T set the trend for catering to children. They usually related a story. The window displays were made in different parts of Europe. The details were breathtaking. L&T also introduced animation into its displays. I remember policemen being present to help control the crowds while Christmas chimes were played for everyone's delight.

New York has strict restrictions concerning signs and lighting on Fifth Avenue. Most of the upscale retail traffic on Fifth Avenue stretched between 49th (on the south) and 57th (on the north) streets. I remember Dad mulling over options of relocating the great store as founded by Mr. Lord and Mr. Taylor back in the 1860s to be nearer to 50th Street on Fifth Avenue. Dad needed something extra spectacular to draw the people south of 49th street. The idea came in 1955 and was a guarded secret. Dad had to get special legal permits from the city. Thousands of special strung lights were ordered. All planning was carefully coordinated and within a couple of days of the first week of November, a ten story Christmas tree of lights, the first of its type, appeared completely encompassing the front of Lord & Taylor on Fifth Avenue. The magnificent tree of lights welcomed in the holiday season and could easily be seen fifteen to twenty blocks in each direction. The tree became a tradition for years thereafter and was copied by other establishments.

The holiday tree of lights on the front of the Macy flagship store even today is very similar to the tree of lights Dad originated while at L&T.

Dorothy Shaver had an automatic perfume spray dispenser installed at the entrance to L&T on Fifth Avenue. You got a free whiff of the fragrance of the day as you past by. Maridon remembers Dorothy Shaver quite distinctly. Dorothy always wore a hat as a

statement of her femininity, indoors and out.

During the 50's Dad hired William L. Palmer, a large black man with a winning smile. Together they designed the famous "Soup Bar" on the tenth floor, which became very popular. There was always a line waiting for people to be seated. Many times, while shopping on a Saturday, I enjoyed having a large bowl of vegetable or barley soup served personally by Palmer. I can still see him, with his cheerful disposition and big smile, serving up hot apple pie with either a scoop of hard sauce or a slice of cheese. He looked so handsome in his white chefs hat and apron.

Civic Involvement – Scarsdale 1942-1951

In 1942 Curt Shillerstrom, Fred A. Semmens and Dad under took a project for the Village of Scarsdale erecting a War Memorial for soldiers from Scarsdale killed in WWI and WW2. Dad worked with architects, fund raising committees and village officials for its development. The 'Scarsdale Community Honor Roll' was dedicated by Mayor Ed Ingalls, May 30, 1949. Dad and I were there, in the Bonface Circle across from the post office. Marilyn and I revisited the sight, June 2, 2010, 61 years later. The Village was as beautiful as I had remembered.

In 1945 Dad was asked to be on a local school committee for building an enlarged playground for the Edgewood Elementary School. He oversaw its design, budgeting and implementation. He was very interested in the dynamics of education on the local level.

The first week of October 1946 Dad was nominated for the school board to take Dr. Pickett's place. In a letter to Maridon he wrote: "Can you imagine me on that Board...more work if I get it. Good honor however but one that would be a great

challenge to do a fine piece of business.” He was elected and spent the next six months negotiating teacher and janitor salaries along with budget drafting and haggling. Some weeks he spent three nights a week on school board problems working past midnight.

Representing Lord and Taylor, Dad attended a meeting at the Waldorf the last week of October 1946 with Mr. Sproul, President of the Federal Reserve Bank, concerning a national lack of saving and problems of excessive spending leading to “a natural inroad for the coming of the ‘isms’.” History is repeating itself today in 2012.

October 25, 1946 Mother was appointed to the Scarsdale Safety Society. Notes indicate she was also serving as an active leader within the Scarsdale Women’s Club and the high school – elementary school PTAs

Dad ran for President of the Scarsdale School Board in 1947. While serving as president, in 1948-50, he faced a tough challenge when several local citizens tried to ban certain literary books from the public schools and libraries. Dad supported the platform letting the books stay and giving the people their freedom to read and choose for themselves. It was a heated controversy but Dad's side won out. Many editorials appeared in the local and national newspapers praising Dad for his stance and decision to stick to his guns.

Following WW II, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin brought accusations against people for their alleged communist leanings in our nation, raising security investigations. These feelings also appeared in local communities and towns. In 1948 Otto. E. Dohrenwend, a Wall Street broker and Scarsdale citizen made a public complaint that the grade schools and high school had books in their libraries which had been written by

communists or people of pro-communist leanings. As time went on he organized a small group which was at first known as the Committee of Ten and later called The Scarsdale Citizens' Committee to support his beliefs. From records, I found the committee included William C. Kernan, assistant to the rector of the Church of St. James the Less (Episcopal), the Reverend August W. Brustat, pastor of The Trinity Lutheran Church, Professor Oscar Haleski of Fordham University and James R. Meehan of Hunter College. Although there were several men and women belonging to the movement who represented several faiths, the group claimed that it was completely non-sectarian.

For two years, meetings were held, voices from all sides were aired, investigations made. During the height of the controversy, eighty-one of Scarsdale's leading citizens got together to challenge the Committee of Ten's accusations. The group signed a constituted statement which was read in board meetings and circulated to the press. The following is a quote from their published decision: "The purpose of education in a free society is to develop intelligent citizens, loyal to their country and to the pursuit of truth, believing in the endless possibilities for the betterment of mankind. A system of censorship of materials and ideas smacks of the methods used by communists and fascist states and defeats the very purpose of the Bill of Rights, as well as the purpose of education." (Committee of "81" Friday October 14, 1949.)

The Committee of Ten continued for another year to make accusations and insight fear and confusion. It was attributed to Dad's sound leadership and fearless stand for righteous principles that the Board of Education resolved that no conclusive evidence had been found concerning any of the teachers "...by the use of books or pamphlets or otherwise, have been

inculcating subversive ideas in our school children...' (The decision of The Board of Education read by Dad dated July 5, 1950)

The officials of the Scarsdale school system were fully aware of the threat that communism plays in a democratic land. If books are to serve freedom as they must, it is not enough that they be protected from censorship. The use of books is in their reading, and no man is truly free if denied access. The greater risk is in censorship. To be truly free, man must be able to think and decide for himself.

Dr. Charles A. Perera, who operated on my left eye when I was six years of age lived in Scarsdale. He had five children who attended Scarsdale schools. In a meeting of the school board he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the school system for the democracy which had been taught to his children. As quoted in a June 16, 1950 issue of The Scarsdale Inquirer sec. 1 page 2 he said "If Scarsdale people all went to church on Sunday and practiced their religion through the week, the whole community would be filled with the love of God. There is much more lack of spiritual feeling in the home than in the schools."

Dad was on the committee for the construction of the THIS IS THE PLACE MONUMENT at the mouth of Emigration Canyon in Salt Lake City, 1945-1947. The design and character creation were assigned to Mahonri Young, renowned sculptor and artist and grandson of Brigham Young. Dad's friend, Leonard Nelson, was given the commission to pour the three figures on the top of the monument. Maridon witnessed the pouring of one of the statues.

When I was about six years of age, I remember Dad taking me to Mahonri (Mackintosh) Young's studio in a large barn-type setting near Norwalk,

Connecticut. He also was the sculptor of the Brigham Young statue residing in our Nation's Capitol, the Sea Gull Monument on Temple Square and the pioneer statue at Winter Quarters of the husband and wife standing over the shallow grave of their child. For as long as I can remember, Dad had a bronze paperweight of a reclining greyhound on his desk, a special gift from Mahonri. The dog symbolized what the artist saw in Dad, a powerful force at rest ready at any moment to spring into action.

During the 1960s, Dad was the moving force behind the acquisition by Brigham Young University of the entire Mahonri Young art collection. Thomas E. Toone has written a comprehensive biography on Mahonri, titled Mahonri Young, His Life and Art.

Church Service: 1932-1960

In reading Dad's letters I feel that he has always lived close to the Lord. You can feel of his faith and principles. These were unwavering through out his life.

I have been told that Dad helped organize the Westchester Branch shortly after moving to Mt. Vernon in 1932. He was called as the first Branch President. Mother served as President of the Relief Society, branch clerk, a Primary teacher and branch historian. Part of the history was included in the "Branch Briefs" which was a newsletter printed and mailed monthly from 1943 to 1954 to current and prior branch members. It was Mother's turn to compile, write, and print the "Branch Briefs" from 1944 through 1947. Thanks to Marilyn Miller Smolka, I have a bound copy of the "Branch Briefs" from November 1943 through January 1954. A copy was also donated to the Harold B. Library, Brigham Young University.

Ike Stewart became the Branch President during the 1940s. Ike and June moved to Scarsdale three years after Mother and Dad.

In 1928, Ike had earned a law degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He became the leading attorney with Union Carbide. We spent many Sunday afternoons in their home. Kitsy (Katherine), their youngest daughter, and I would get out-of-your-mind dizzy swirling on their rotor-plane in their basement. The Stewart family had roots in Kamas, Utah, where their ranch was a famous retreat for many Utah families. We often visited in their home near the Scarsdale High School. Mother had a terrific sense of humor. She and Ike always teased and joked continuously with a running commentary on politics and religion.

The New York, NY Stake was organized Sunday December 9, 1934, with Fred G. Taylor as President, Howard S. Bennion – First Counselor, and Haakon H. Haglung – Second Counselor.

Westchester remained a dependent branch until some time in the 1950s. Some of the member families I remember from the early days are: Arthur and Eleanor Neely, the "frog lady". She could discretely make the sound of a frog. On Tuesday, June 20, 1967, Eleanor came to my wedding reception in Salt Lake. When we saw each other in line, we exchanged croaking sounds. Mel and Ada Miller lived at 4 Brassie Lane in Bronxville. I was very impressed that they had an organ in their living room. They both played the organ and piano and led the music for the Westchester Branch. Mel had a great writing ability and authored many branch skits performed at fund-raiser dinners. I remember playing with their children, Marilyn and Richard. They had a marble game Mel had made which I found to be great fun. Mel Miller and Homer Stringham were cousins. Homer and Phoebe Stringham, John and Jean Griffith, Doug and Alex Clawson, Gordon and Nevada Owen and their daughters, Marita

and Roberta, and sons, Gordon Jr. and Stanford, and Haakon H. and Eva Forsberg Haglund were all branch members. I remember visiting the Haglund home on Christmas days at 7 Benedict Place in Pelham. Their home was always decorated nicely for Christmas and had beautiful hardwood floors. Bishop George Watkins bought their home after they moved west in 1958.

Joseph F. Smith had set Haakon apart as a missionary to the Hawaiian Islands. He was married to Eva in 1912, graduated from the U with an electrical engineering degree in 1921 and with four children moved to New York City to continue working for Western Union. Haakon supervised part of the work laying 4000 miles of telegraph cable from NY to England in 1926. Elizabeth, their oldest child, was a close friend of our family for many years. While working at the U, she was the personal secretary for Neal A. Maxwell.

Harvey Fletcher was also a member of the New York Stake. The Fletchers lived in New Jersey. Their son, Paul, was my Manhattan Ward scoutmaster in 1954.

Other Latter-day Saints who were close to Dad in business and Church circles were Lee Bickmore, President of Nabisco, and DeWitt Paul whose son and daughter-in-law were our friends in Los Angeles, Oakley S. Evans, Vice President J. C. Penney Co.

Marilyn Miller Smolka wrote me in January of 1999 and made the following insightful observation: "For many, the Church associations were their family since they had come from Utah, mostly." We were all family. Many young couples and singles came east in search of opportunity, education and fortune. They found strength and cohesive fellowship in the varied and inspiring talent of the Westchester Branch.

During the early 1950s, after serving on the High Council, Dad was called as second counselor in the New York Stake Presidency, with George Mortimer as President and David Payne as first counselor.

I have a letter from Dad dated Saturday May 18, 1963. The following is from the letter: "We had a meeting of our Lochinar Club yesterday at the Wall Street Club, 59th floor of the Chase-Manhattan Bank. Waldo Hatch was the host. I was the speaker. As you know the Lochinvars are the 'young men out of the West' who have made good in New York; such as Robert Kirkwood, President of Woolworths (a Provo boy), Lee Bickmore, President of National Biscuit Company (from Logan), etc. There are 25 of us; we could have had more but we have limited it...its a very exclusive group... Some of them are active in the Church, some are not, but they all are very sympathetic to the Church." To be honest, Dad never talked much about the club to me. I feel that his being Stake President placed him in a position of being a good influence upon the members. I don't know what he spoke about, but I am sure the NY Worlds fair '64-'65 was mentioned. At the time I was still at BYU, not living at home.

Dad was very supportive of the LDS New York Pageant held every summer at the Hill Cumorah. As a young boy I remember attending the pageant with him and visiting the sacred grove. During the 1940s the Church historical sites were not developed to the extent they are today. We were the only ones in the grove the time we were there. I remember walking among the trees and Dad was very quiet. I could feel that it was a very sacred place. The thought was expressed that this was the place where God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to a 14-year-old boy, Joseph Smith, one spring morning in the year of 1820. This was the event, which resulted in

the restoration of the Priesthood keys and the re-establishment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the earth in the latter days.

In a letter, Dad recounted attending a special conference with 300 missionaries called by President B. H. Roberts (1857-1933) on Tuesday, July 24, 1923 at the Hill Cumorah. Elder Wayne Driggs read from The Book of Mormon. President Roberts was a "visionary man". He suggested that a similar conference be held annually henceforth. He anticipated the day when "the eyes of the world would look upon this spot". In 1928, it was Wayne Driggs who wrote the script for the first pageant, which evolved into the major production held every summer in Palmyra. Dad wrote "I never attend the Pageant, but that I think of the vision of President Roberts in this matter."

When Grant Stanley, our only son, was a junior and senior in high school (1995-1997), we tried to get him on the pageant electrical, sound and lighting crew, an area where he had an interest and some abilities. Both years he was denied a position because many more people applied than there were openings to be filled. It would have been a meaningful experience for Grant, a great-great-great-grandson of Hyrum Smith and Mary Fielding, if he had been chosen to work with the pageant in the location where Joseph had his First Vision.

When I was about eight years of age (1948), Dad pointed out a site to me across from the Scarsdale High School and said someday he would like to have an L.D.S. chapel built there. I witnessed his dream fulfilled.

I was present for the dedication of the Scarsdale Ward chapel by President J. Reuben Clark on Sunday, May 22, 1955. The location of the church on Wayside Lane is immediately across from the Scarsdale High School, Butler Field, and

the old library, which served as a temporary headquarters for General Washington during the Revolutionary War. The entire Westchester area is rich with the traditions and history of our American Revolutionary War era.

Isaac M. Stewart donated the organ for the new chapel in memory of his parents. H. H. Haglund spoke giving the history of the Westchester Ward.

The Short Hills Ward, New Jersey, was dedicated by Apostle Ezra T. Benson September 20, 1956. Over 800 people were in attendance. In 1922 there were 15 members in the area Dad noted when he organized this branch while on his mission.

Dad was known for his concise and interesting speaking ability, which, I am sure stemmed from his father's early training. One example, of many, comes to mind. When I was about nine, Dad would take me on his speaking assignments to the various wards and branches within the New York Stake. These were the Sundays when we attended Church for three hours in the morning (Priesthood and Sunday School) and an hour and a half in the evening (Sacrament meeting). This one particular night, the Sacrament service started at 6:30 p.m.. There had already been two speakers and it was ten minutes to eight when Dad took the podium as the last speaker. I remember looking at the clock and thinking, "It's going to be another half an hour!" Dad spoke boldly with the spirit and gave his testimony and sat down. We were out of there by eight o'clock. Boy, did I praise him on the way home that night. His famous quote was "Stand up, Speak up and Shut up." Good advice.

In the 1930s through the 1960s, having his home base in New York City, Dad was frequently called upon to lend assistance to Church members traveling through New

York City making train connections west or ship connections to Europe.

Dad made many trips to Los Angeles for the J. W. Robinson Company and the Church owned Bonneville International Company of which he was a board member.

In 1966 Dad served as Director of Bonneville International, then as chairman of the executive committee and briefly as president and chairman prior to his passing.

Dad was a friend of Ted Jacobsen, of the Jacobsen Construction Company, and assisted in a support roll of the construction of the LDS Los Angeles Temple.

New York Stake President 1960 – 1967

Dad served as Stake President of the New York Stake from February 28, 1960 to August 20, 1967. At the time Elder Harold B. Lee set Dad apart as Stake President in the basement of the Church building, a sister sitting next to Adelaide reported seeing a bright light over Dad's head encompassing the hands laid there-on.



Dad always had a vision of the Church owning a major piece of real estate in mid-town Manhattan. During the sixties, he worked for several years to finalize the acquisition of two properties for the Church near the Plaza Hotel, 59th Street and Fifth Avenue. He tried unsuccessfully to get a

third piece that would have given access to 58th and 59th streets.

These properties were eventually sold resulting in a positive cash reserve for the Church. The year after Dad's death, the Church used these funds to purchase its current site at Lincoln Center - near Julliard School of Music and the NY Metropolitan Opera House. The multi-story building was completed and dedicated in May of 1975. The Manhattan Ward meeting house and stake center at 142 West 81st Street was sold and the members moved into their new and enlarged location that also housed the new mission home. This property eventually became the site of the Manhattan Temple in 2004.

New York World's Fair 1964 – 1965

During 1961-62, he asked the leadership of the Church in Salt Lake to consider making a substantial commitment to bring the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed and taught by the Church to all the world by being a major participant in the 1964-65 New York World's Fair. It was very difficult for missionaries to tract in the city with security systems and doormen preventing entry to many dwellings. Other means of enlightening the world to the gospel message needed to be undertaken.

Ken Beesley drafted and presented the proposal for a separate Church designed pavilion as opposed to renting space in the Protestant Pavilion.

Due to slow communications and some opposition from various sources outside the Church, Dad had previously lost an option on a location which he had thought to be suitable. The matter was turned over to the Lord and was resolved in a highly favorable yet unforeseen way. A lot near the main entrance was secured. The food concession building at the fair's entrance withdrew partway through construction. The lot was

turned into a fountain-park setting making the Church pavilion the first display and exhibit people saw upon entering the fair.

This project placed the great missionary wheels in motion which created the video "Man's Search for Happiness". This marked the beginning of the development of Church Visitors' Centers where the murals and displays created for the fair were used in Independence, Carthage, Nauvoo, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Visitors' Centers. Hundreds of converts can trace their introduction to the Church back to the Mormon Pavilion at the NY World's Fair of 1964-65.



During the 1960s Dad wanted the Church to hire professional public relations firms to represent the Church in getting the message of The Restoration out to the world. He wanted the Church to perform missionary proselytizing in a whole new dimension. In time (April of 1978) a major information spread appeared in the Reader's Digest.

He was instrumental in the Church reacquiring the Joseph Smith Book of Abraham facsimiles (part of the Pearl of Great Price) in November of 1967 more than a year after their discovery by Dr. Aziz S. Atiya in the Egyptian files of the NY

Metropolitan Museum of Art at 83rd Street and Fifth Avenue. As a teenager, I often visited the exhibit of the large Egyptian collection and had thought about Joseph Smith translating the writings of Abraham upon papyrus found in catacombs of Egypt.

Dad's Marriage to Adelaide Neilson Vernon

1951 - 1998

Adelaide was the second child of Peter Matt and Adelaide Cornelia Keaton Neilson. She had one sister, Ellen, and six brothers, Preston, George, Rulon, Horace, Harold and Alfred.

As was noted earlier in this history, Weston and Adelaide and Ellen attended the wedding reception of Mother and Dad September 1, 1926 in Salt Lake City.

Adelaide and Weston Vernon Jr. were civilly married September 21, 1926 in Logan, Utah. Following their marriage, Weston and Adelaide moved to Washington, D.C. where Weston attended law school. Adelaide and Weston moved to Jackson Heights, New York in 1930. Stanley and Donnette had moved to Jackson Heights prior to 1930. Dad knew Adelaide's sister, Ellen, from his missionary days in Boston, where Ellen was studying music. Mutual friends of both couples were Allie and Bill Marriott, Ike and June Stewart, Ezra Taft and Flora Benson, Henry D. Moyle.

Adelaide and Weston and their two sons, Weston and Robert, moved to Manhattan some time in 1942. Adelaide became a member of the Manhattan Ward, which served as the Stake Center for the New York Stake. Mother and 'A' were members of the Harlem Symphony.

Sometime about 1942 Weston and Adelaide separated. I don't have any details concerning their divorce. This topic was never discussed in my presence. Mother 'A'

entered my life during the summer of 1951. Their oldest son, Weston, was living in Utah. Robert was a senior at The Browning School for Boys in Manhattan.

My sister, Maridon had married John Wells Morrison Saturday, July 7, 1951, in Salt Lake City, and 'A's oldest son, Weston Vernon III, had married Alida Steinvooort Friday, October 5, 1951, in Brigham City.



On Wednesday, October 10, 1951, President J. Reuben Clark performed the marriage ceremony for Dad and Adelaide Neilson Vernon in the Logan Temple. J. Willard Marriott was a witness. Shortly thereafter Dad and I left the Scarsdale home and moved to 1115 Fifth Avenue (93rd Street), New York City. It was a spacious condominium on the 4th floor. We always referred to our home as Apartment 4C.

In Scarsdale we had three bedrooms and 2 and a half baths with living space for Evelyn on the 3rd floor.

In New York we had large rooms considering most apartments, four plus

bedrooms and four plus bathrooms. There was a doorman and several support personnel who served a security roll and building maintenance. Instead of a yard to play in, I had all of Central Park to explore right across the street.

Mother 'A' made a beautiful home for us in New York. I was grateful to have a brother in Robert G. Vernon to introduce me to my new life at The Browning School for Boys and show me the ropes on how to get around Manhattan.



Mother and Dad worked hand-in-hand to serve the saints in the New York Stake. Mother would prepare Sunday dinners for all the university students of Manhattan Ward. Mother supported Dad in his church callings and business assignments and Dad supported Mother in her church callings and civic affiliations. Both of Dad's wives loved and supported him as he lived to fulfill his dreams and visions in life. You could not think or talk about either Dad or his wives separately. Their lives and interests supported one another. They lived for each other.

Saturday, June 20, 1970 was my third wedding anniversary. My wife, Marilyn, and I along with her parents, Walter and Helen Mains were visiting my sister, Maridon and her family in Sunnyvale, California when we learned of Dad's passing. It was a great shock to us all. Dad

had gone for an early morning walk in his beloved Central Park, as he did many mornings, when a heart attack occurred.

He had just said his good-byes the day before upon his retirement from Associated Dry Goods Corporation as Executive VP of Operations Research and Properties (New Store Development). He had spent twenty-four years in the retail field and was looking forward to returning the West where he and Mother hoped to begin life anew.

Mother, Maridon, Robert and I attended Dad's funeral services in New York and Salt Lake City. Copies of the funeral services are in my possession. Mother 'A' and Dad are both buried in the Logan, Utah cemetery overlooking Cache Valley within a beautiful pine tree setting near the Neilson family graves.

In 1976, Mother 'A' moved from our home at 1115 Fifth Avenue to a newly remodeled condominium at (the Mayflower) 1283 East South Temple, Salt Lake City. I learned from speaking with Winifred Bowers, a close friend of Adelaide and Dad, that her father built the Mayflower Apartments back in the late 1920's. Kathy and Robert Vernon had helped Mother select her new home.

Mother 'A' enjoyed fairly good health for her 95 years. She lived in her home up until just two weeks of her passing. On Tuesday, February 10, 1998 (Dad's birthday), Mother bade farewell to her home and was taken to the University of Utah hospital for special care. 'A' passed away February 23rd, five days short of her 96th birthday after being alone for 28 years, missing her dearly beloved Stanley to the very end. Just before her passing, she was heard to call out for Stanley.

It is interesting to note that George Mortimer (the New York Stake President in

the 1950s) and Adelaide passed away within one day of one another, George on the 22nd and Mother, Monday, February 23, 1998. In the Deseret News, they shared adjoining columns. Their friendship had spanned many years together.

The Manhattan Ward

1945-1974

When Dad married Adelaide in 1951, he and I moved from Scarsdale to 1115 5th Avenue. My home ward became the Manhattan Ward located at 142 West 81st Street. In 1945, while Howard S. Bennion was the NY Stake President, the Church purchased its first chapel in Manhattan. It also housed the Stake Office for many years. I remember attending stake functions and meetings here prior to our 1951 move. This building was purchased from the Disciples of Christ. As a teenager, I helped with the building of classrooms in the basement. Many saints called this their home ward from 1945 until 1974 when they moved to a newly built site at West 65th Street and Columbus Avenue

New York Mission Home

1948-1974

Apostle Ezra T. Benson acquired the Eastern States Mission Home at 973 Fifth Avenue (79th Street and Fifth Avenue) in 1948 from the Fedder family, a Jewish International Banker. The home was designed by Stanford White and was built in 1903 by General McCook, of the Civil War, for his daughter and son-in-law, the Count and Countess de Meredia of France. They never occupied the home since the Count died before the home was finished. Mr. and Mrs. Fedder had no children. They and their 21 servants were the only occupants prior to the home being purchased by the Church.

President George Q. Morris was the Mission President at the time. Following him, President Delbert G. Taylor served

from 1951 to 1955. About 1921, Dad and Elder Taylor had served part of their missions together in the Boston area. The Taylor and McAllister families had been friends in Salt Lake. President Ted Jacobsen was the next President serving from 1955-1960. His wife, Florence Smith Jacobsen was President of the YWMIA of the Church from 1961 to 1972.

Those who followed President Jacobsen were: Wilburn C. West, Gerald Smith and Harold N. Wilkinson.

The mission home was located next door to the French Embassy also designed by Stanford White. The home was elegant with many French accouterments, beautiful imported paneling, ornate fireplaces with mantels in most of the rooms, imported stained glass windows and mirrors, eight foot hand carved doors, a grand circular staircase with red carpet and bronze balustrade. One could stand on the first floor level and look up thought the open stairway for five floors. The home was indeed an elegant showpiece.

On a few occasions from 1953 through 1955, I stayed over night at the mission home on the 6th floor and assisted filling supply orders for missionaries. At least once I was there while Apostle Spencer W. Kimball was recovering from throat surgery. He and his wife stayed in the home on the 4th floor.

The Church vacated the Mission Home in 1974 and it was placed on the market for sale. In the spring of 1976, all the rooms of the home were turned over to New York's leading interior designers for a fund raising featuring design motifs for the Kips Bay Club benefit.

Personal Memories of My Parents

Mother had brown hair that turned white about 1942. She had pale blue eyes. Dad had green eyes. Mother was close to Dad in height. Dad was about 5 feet 8 inches in height. Dad was close to 140 lbs and had black hair most of his life. It started to gray slightly after he turned sixty. Mother was about 116 lbs. Near the end of her life, she was less than 95 lbs. and had lost most of her hair because of radiation treatments.

Mother wore glasses with thin wire frames. She was nearsighted. Dad wore glasses only to read. He was farsighted. I have been nearsighted all my life and have worn glasses since the age of six when Dr. Perera performed left eye surgery.

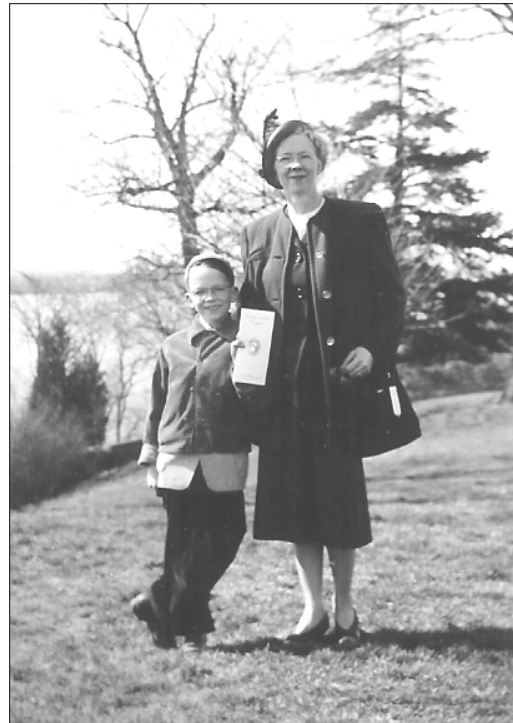
Mother was a great cook. A specialty of hers was blueberry pie with lattice top piecrust and homemade ice cream (especially pineapple). She liked to entertain with gourmet food. She always appreciated things of quality and good taste, a beautifully set table, a clean home and entertaining friends.

Mother liked to sew. She and Marion made several of their dresses, like their mother who was an exquisite seamstress all her life until she lost her eyesight to cataracts.

In addition, Mother was also a fine needle worker. I remember we had one chair and a piano bench in our Scarsdale home, which had been stitched by Mother. I believe Marion shared a similar interest.

While living in Scarsdale, formal dinner parties were often given in our home for Mother's large circle of friends. Mother would press the buzzer, hidden under the carpet, with her foot when food courses were changed. Evelyn, our live-in assistant, and Maridon would help serve the invited guests.

When out in public, Mother and Dad were always formally dressed, Mother in a dress and Dad in a business suit with white shirt and tie. When at home in the evenings, Dad would put on his maroon velvet "smoking jacket" and leather slippers.



The theater in NYC was a large part of the social life. Mother and friends would often have lunch in the city and attend matinees. On occasion, Mother would take the train into the city, meet Dad at the office and go to dinner with friends and attend the theater. The race to get the last commuter train was always a challenge, so it was nice when gas rationing was lifted and the car was available again.

My earliest memories of Mother and Dad start about 1945 when I was five years of age. During the 40s and 50s Dad wore a full fedora felt hat with a crease in the crown, typical of the businessmen seen in movies and ads of that time period. During the 60s, hats became less popular and I don't

remember him wearing a hat in the latter years of his life.

Since there was not a local LDS Church in Scarsdale (1948-51) to sponsor scouting, I was a member of Den 1, Pack 1, a non-denominational Cub Scout unit sponsored by the village. I fulfilled all the Cub Scouting requirements and was awarded the rank of Webelos prior to my entering Boy Scouts. Our pack won the award for marching, in the 1949 Memorial Day parade. Dad was a supporter of scouting.

I remember Dad attending the Memorial Day parades and visiting the war memorial he had helped construct in the village town center to the fallen soldiers from the First and Second World Wars.

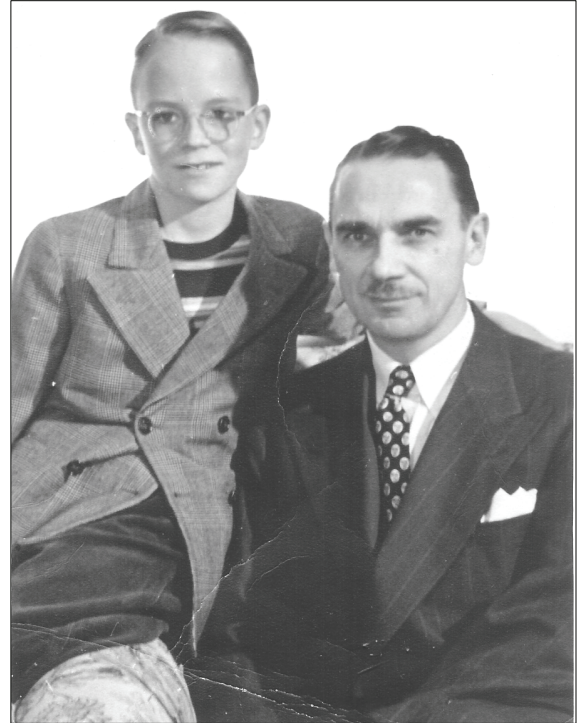
On our walks together, we often would feed the ducks on a pond and a stream near the west-parking circle of the Scarsdale train station. As a youth, I remember these were busy, active days filled with adventure as we lived amongst the beauty of the great outdoors.

When I was ten, Dad gave me a catcher's mitt for Christmas. He shared with me that when he was a youth he had broken his left thumb while being a catcher for a local Salt Lake ball team. When the weather permitted and Dad had a half hour to relax, we enjoyed throwing ball to one another in front of our home on Barry Road.

Dad liked to order pie and ice cream when we ate out. On occasion he would order hot apple pie with a large slice of Colby cheese on top. As a boy, I always thought that combination very peculiar. I am sure my stares gave Dad the thought that one of us was 'two bricks shy of a full load'. He would politely say, "You don't know what you are missing".

As an adult, I love hot apple pie. Frequently I even have it with a large slice

of Colby cheese. At one time or another, all of my six wonderful children, Marcia, Karen, Laurel, Rebecca, Grant Stanley and Heather have all given me that stare...'one of us must be two bricks shy of a full load'. I politely say to them that they don't know what they are missing. Maridon and I can still visualize him with his coy grin saying 'Apple pie without cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze'.



I also remember the local movie theater in the village where we went on special occasions. Maridon and I both remember that even though on Saturday nights there was always a double feature, Dad could only sit through one show.

When the Ringling Bros. & Barnum Bailey Circus would come to Madison Square Garden, Dad would get tickets, and we would all go and have the best time together. The Garden was originally built in 1925 for boxing events. It was located on Eighth Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets. With the closing of the Garden in

1968 a new Garden was built over the old Pennsylvania Train Station.

In 1936, Maridon remembers the family attending the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. I remember attending the 1946 parade with enormous helium balloons tethered by ropes. My two favorites were the Pilgrim balloon with his belt buckle, hat and musket, and the live Santa Claus at the end. The parade was not held during the war years of 1942-44. The first parade for Macy's was in 1924. Thanksgiving was not always held on the last Thursday of November. In 1939, Fred Lazarus II, President of Shillito's Department Store in Cincinnati, Ohio, persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt to set Thanksgiving Day to be the third Thursday in November in order to add an extra week for Christmas shopping. A joint resolution by Congress returned the day to the fourth Thursday starting in November of 1942.

When people from Utah visited New York, Dad tried, through his contacts, to get them tickets to the live broadcasts. These were the days before TV. As the shows gained in popularity, it became increasingly difficult to obtain tickets. With his contacts, he usually was successful in getting tickets for visitors from out of state.

When Dad would arrive home after ten at night, not having eaten supper, all he wanted to eat would be a slice of white bread lightly buttered submerged in a bowl of warm milk. I have not yet acquired that preference.

Dad loved to read. We had a large book and record library in Scarsdale and New York. Dad loved history. He once mentioned that he had visited the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey right after the German dirigible, the Hindenburg caught fire killing 36 people Thursday May 6, 1937. Maridon remembers hearing the broadcast on the radio. He also listened to

his radio, following the flight of Charles Lindbergh, as he flew the Spirit of St. Louis from NY to Paris in May of 1927. I could tell Dad had a lot of respect for Lindbergh as he read the book about him during the 1950s. Dad could tell you stories about General George Washington, especially since his headquarters were on the Post Road near where we lived in Scarsdale. The building that General Washington used for his headquarters in October 1776 became the Scarsdale public library in the 1930s. (The old edifice still stands. Marilyn and I visited it in 2010.)

We often visited West Point to attend the Army-Navy football games.

Dad had a large library in Scarsdale and New York. He had several original editions of early Church books including an original 1830 Palmyra edition and a copy of the second European edition of The Book of Mormon.

Dad had his favorite stories. One that became famous through his many requests to relate it was the story of the Fourth Wiseman or the Other Magi. He loved to tell stories about having faith of the size of a grain of mustard seed, the prodigal son, building strong foundations, the faith of Paul, pioneer stories, scouting stories, stories from history, the first vision, Why the Chimes Rang and A Message To Garcia, the latter being a favorite of B. H. Roberts.

Dad was friendly and conversant with everyone he met, clerks, doormen, local shopkeepers, bus drivers, maintenance people, chief executive officers, and presidents of industry, clergy and heads of state.

During the day of Christmas Eve, the executives at Lord and Taylor (NYC) would serve sandwiches, cookies and punch to all the employees in the lounge on the

11th floor. Mother "A" and I would meet Dad around 5:30 p.m. and would walk up Fifth Avenue seeing, for one more time, the lights and ambiance of the season. That night at home, Dad would wear his L&T personally monogrammed apron as we enjoyed hot chocolate and waffles. Often around midnight, we attended a caroling service at a nearby church.

One day in the 1950s, a wall was torn out near the packing room in the basement of the Lord and Taylor Store in Manhattan. Behind where the wall once stood was an open space where approximately 30 packages were discovered dating back to the late 1920s and early 1930s. It was surmised that they had fallen off an old conveyor system, which was once in the area and had since been dismantled. Dad had all the packages taken to his office where they were opened and examined for their delivery address or purchaser identification. That week several customers received a personal visit from a store representative along with the overdue delivery and a letter of explanation and apology. Dad especially liked the very popular 1920 era full-length fur coats worn by men of distinctive fashion.

In 1956, Mrs. Raymond C. Lilly, wife of the Executive Director for the Grand Teton Lodge Company, in Jackson, Wyoming, called L&T in NYC and ordered something from her home in San Francisco that she wanted to wear to a reception in five days. A call came to Dad's office explaining the delivery deadline and potential problem of not completing the delivery in time. He personally carried the package with a note enclosed to the post office for special handling and delivery.

Those were the days before FedEx. During the summer of 1958, I worked at the Jackson Lake Lodge. I was personal housekeeper for Mrs. Lilly. When she found out my name and that I was from

NY, she personally told me about her package being delivered on time and how grateful she was to a Mr. Stanley McAllister at Lord and Taylor. Dad never told me the story.

In looking back over the years, Dad was a man of tremendous energy, with a captivating personality having great vision of what he wanted to accomplish for the Church and his business pursuits in New York. He cared about his family, giving encouragement and guidance along the way. He quietly and often anonymously offered a great amount of help and growth assistance in the spiritual, character development and physical well being of many people. He assisted Louise Lake during her long battle with polio. He was a friend to and of Mark E. Petersen, Milton R Hunter, Spencer W. Kimball, Henry D. Moyle, Harold B. Lee, Richard L. Evans, Reed Smoot, George Albert Smith, N. Eldon Tanner, L. Tom Perry, Heber J. Grant, Gordon B. Hinckley, J. Reuben Clark, Joseph Fielding Smith, Ezra Taft Benson and other Church leaders who came east for medical, business or Church related reasons. He touched the lives of students, missionaries, Church members and business people at all levels. His life tragically ended all too soon during the morning of Saturday, June 20, 1970, in Central Park, New York City, the day after he retired from Associated Dry Goods Corporation as Executive VP of Operations Research and Properties - New Store Development.

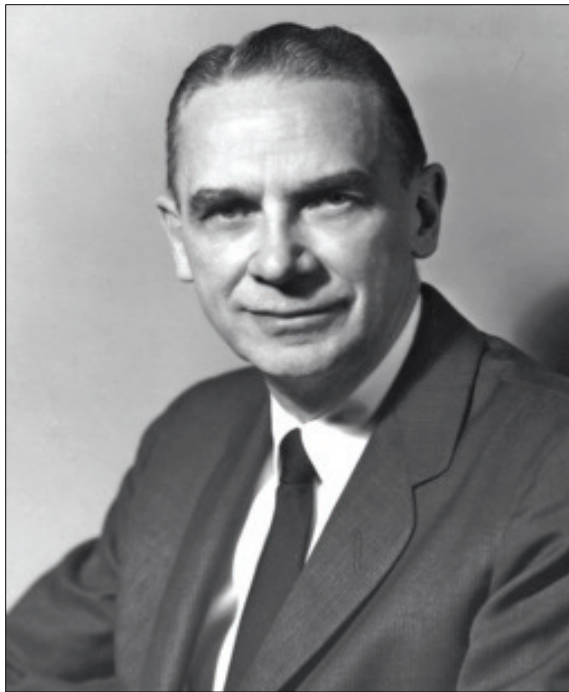
With almost all of Dad's business or school board letters or documents, his signature was the familiar script, lower case run together 'gsm'. His family letters were signed 'Daddy, Dad, Stan or Stanley'.

While at CBS, Dad had a color picture of the Great White Throne, Zion Canyon, on his office wall. It is believed his scout troop had made several trips there while he was a youth. Dad loved the southern Utah canyon

lands. On his desk, he had an 8 x 10 color drawing of a cowboy a stride a horse listing to a portable radio.

Dad was a personal friend of Mr. and Mrs. Parry, of Parry's Lodge, Kanab, Utah. Whenever Dad was near Kanab, he would always try to visit them and spend the night.

When Dad was working for CBS, every weekday morning, he would catch the commuters' express from the Scarsdale train station into the city. The image of those early days has grown dim upon my memory, but I can still remember the excitement, which accompanied those special trips when Mother would take me to his office. Dad took me once or twice to see the CBS transmitter on Long Island Sound. I especially enjoyed the motorboat ride out to the island.



Of his 70 years, he spent over 43 years living, serving and working in the greater New York area.

Both mothers and Dad instilled within me a love for Jesus Christ, the Church and a gratitude for our rich ancestry. Robert, my brother, Dad and I walked to Priesthood Meetings at the Manhattan Ward through Central Park to 142 West 81st Street most Sabbath mornings. We would discuss gospel topics or things we were studying in school. It was at the entrance to the park at 91st Street and 5th Avenue that Dad passed away on Saturday morning, June 20, 1970, in a city that had become an integral part of his life since 1921. He loved the prophet Joseph Smith and spoke about the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum often with tears in his eyes.

Final Thoughts

On Sunday, April 26, 1998, my wife Marilyn, son Grant Stanley and daughter Heather and I attended a special conference of the Church held at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan. We were guests of President Bradley Mains, Marilyn's brother, of the Scranton Stake. This is not the same Garden we knew when Dad was alive. The new Garden is between 31st and 33rd on Eighth Avenue, built over the old Pennsylvania train station.

As I looked out over the sea of 24,000 plus saints, I felt Dad's presence close by. Some 3000 people had been turned away by the fire marshal. Every available seat was taken. The Prophet of the Church, President Gordon B. Hinckley, was in town and delivered a spiritual message to those in attendance. It was wonderful hearing the beautiful voice of Ariel Bybee. This was part of the vision Dad had many years ago - to witness a large gathering of the saints in Manhattan to hear a Prophet speak. The Church was finally well established in New York City and surrounding areas.

Dad had three birth children and two additional sons through marriage. He supported us all with encouragement and love. I pay tribute to a wonderful father

and two wonderful mothers who lived and served honorably, held and lived by the highest of moral and ethical standards. Someday I look forward to renewing our

association beyond the veil where they continue to build and fulfill their dreams and visions.

Additional Pictures



NOTES

1. In this history, the word “I” refers to Ken McAllister. “We” means my sister and I.

2. Maridon (my sister) and John Morrison (her husband) and my wife, Marilyn, and I have each raised six wonderful children. Maridon and John's six children were an integral part of my life as I was growing up. I offer my loving thanks to Michelle, Donnette, John, Bruce, James and Maridon for being true friends to our family over the years. One of Maridon's grandsons has the name of Standon in memory of our deceased brother, Richard. We all join in support of this written tribute to Stanley and Donnette in loving memory of our heritage and devoted legacy to family.



3. Zion by latter-day revelation was defined by the Lord in referring to His people being “of one heart and one mind”. (Moses 7:18) It can also be where a nucleus of Church members reside in support of their families and neighbors.

4. In 1992, Michelle Janke, Maridon's daughter, told me about a cousin living in Louisville, Kentucky, about 100 miles southwest of our home in Cincinnati, Ohio. After visiting with my new found cousin on the phone, Marilyn and I loaded three of our six children in the car and paid Lamont and Carolyn Wilson a visit. They became dear friends, even attending Grant's Eagle Ceremony, Sunday, June 26, 1994. There is a video on YouTube of the Wilson's visit to Scarsdale in 1944. Silvia Wilson, a daughter (age 2), and I (age 4) are in the video. Silvia (Willie) now lives in Brisbane, Australia. Lamont passed away January 27, 1999. I spoke at Carolyn's funeral January 12, 2008.

Lamont's mother was Christina Violet McAllister, youngest sister to George Stanley McAllister I. Christina was a twin, but her brother died at birth. Christina married Nathan Lamont Wilson, Wednesday, June 16, 1909 in Salt Lake City. Lamont (Monty) was born June 4, 1914.

Carolyn was born February 5, 1912 and grew up in the Salt Lake 27th Ward. Louise Farr was also attending this ward. Louise eventually married Karl Duncan McAllister, Dad's younger brother. Lamont and Carolyn were married Friday, June 4, 1937, on Lamont's 23rd birthday. Following the conclusion of the summer session at the 'U', they took an extensive honeymoon in August. Five days were spent with Mother and Dad in their apartment at Mt. Vernon, New York. This was the first time Carolyn had met Mother. Lamont was an electrical engineer for KSL Radio and was interested in seeing the CBS transmitters. They were there just before my brother Richard died. Carolyn had two of the few pictures taken of him. The Wilson's also visited us in Scarsdale in 1944 and remembered me as a four year old. They moved to Louisville in 1946 and lived in the same house for 52 years. Lamont really admired Dad, and Carolyn spoke of Mother in very affectionate terms.

When Lamont lived at 1201 Windsor Street in Salt Lake he recalls Karl Duncan McAllister taking violin lessons from a neighbor. Karl would stop by their house on his way home after lessons. Karl was four years older than Lamont.

Lamont and Carolyn really enjoyed the 1940 Christmas they spent with Mother and Dad in NY. At the time, the Wilson's were living in Collingswood, NJ. They were both working making a combined income of \$126 a month and spending \$50 a month on rent (according to Carolyn's memory).

John Monte Wilson and Sylvia Willie are son and daughter of Lamont and Carolyn. According to John, I will include two items of interest. Carolyn's official name was Carrie Rosaline Woodmansee Wilson. As a youngster she preferred Carolyn instead of Carrie. During World War II, Lamont and his brother, Bill, were exempt from military duty since they were working on a defense project later called the Manhattan Project. Malcolm, Lamont's brother, served in the army.

Thomas Lamont Wilson born June 4, 1914 (SLC), died January 27, 1999 (Louisville, KY).
Carolyn W. Wilson born February 5, 1912 (SLC), died January 7, 2008 (Norfolk, Nebraska).

5. A brief timeline of the last 10 months of Mother's life:

In early May 1948, Dr. Bill Stevenson referred Mother to a specialist concerning a small lump under her left armpit. The diagnosis was cancer. June 4, 1948 Mother had her first major surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, Harkness Pavilion, 620 West 168th Street, NYC.

During the summer of 1948, Maridon drove Mother to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital several times a week for treatment and physical therapy to help her use her left arm since the radical mastectomy had damaged nerves and muscles. The rest of the time Mother assisted Maridon prepare for her first term at the University of Utah.

September 1, 1948 we all drove out to Utah in Maridon's 2-door car, a green Plymouth, which she had received as a high school graduation gift. Staying overnight in a Roosevelt, Utah, motel, Mother discovered more lumps while showering, this time on the right side. In October Mother had her second major surgery.

Some time in the fall of 1948, Mother was assigned to the care of Dr. Rulon W. Rawson of the Sloan-Kettering Institute, 444 East 68th Street. Being her primary physician, Dr. Rulon Rawson was a cancer specialist and son-in-law of Apostle Levi Edgar Young. Dr. Stevenson remained an advisor and part of her support group.

The first week of January 1949, Evelyn Brooks came to live with us for a month and ended up staying two and a half years.

January 16, 1949 Mother was readmitted to Memorial Hospital, 444 East 68th Street for further radiation treatments. All transport from this point on was by ambulance.

February 9th, Mother returned home from Memorial Hospital completely physically drained and very ill after three weeks of daily cancer treatments. Dad made every effort in getting the best care possible. The pressures of work, uncertainty of outcome, worry and family concerns must

have been a heavy burden for Dad together with the pain and suffering endured by Mother during these days.

Just about every day from February 10th to March 6th, a Church member or neighbor sat by Mother's bedside to visit and carry out her wishes. Mother gave away all of her flowers to friends and neighbors with notes of love and appreciation. Eleanor C. Neeley and Phoebe H. Stringham were two of her very dear friends who kept a faithful vigil.

February 21, Dr. Rawson (LDS) gave Mother hope that she would recover. Mother's health steadily declined. Mother knew about March 1st that she would never recover and that death was fast approaching. She wrote to her mother concerning burial clothing. She was readmitted to the hospital Sunday, March 6th.

March 13th, Mother celebrated her 47th birthday. I was allowed to be with her for a few minutes where we shared a final embrace and kiss. March 18th, 3 a.m., she passed away. March 22, her funeral was held at the Garden Park Ward, SLC. She was interred in the SLC cemetery.

Cancer research in 1949 was in its infancy and Mother suffered tremendously from the radiation and drug treatments in addition to the disease itself. Although Mother requested not to have an autopsy, Drs. Rawson and Stevenson felt a necropsy would be helpful for family history and to close out her medical file. That was done the afternoon of Mother's passing. I have a copy of that report. Mother had a highly malignant type of cancer that had attached and was found in every organ and bone marrow of her body.

6. After moving to the city, Dad and I would often take the Madison Avenue bus together. I would get off at 62nd Street and Dad would continue on to 42nd Street. It was during this period that I learned the Dad had a heart murmur, which caused him concern to at least get periodic medical exams. In 1965, Dad had a mild stroke. In January of 1970, Dad had a heart attack that required hospitalization and two months of home rest. At Christmas, Dad and Mother had hoped to attend April General Conference in Salt Lake City. These plans were cancelled. Some time in April Dad returned to work at Associated Dry Goods Corporation, working a half-day with retirement Friday, June 19th. About 9 a.m. of the 20th, Dad took his usual walk in Central Park to the reservoir entrance at 91st Street. It was about 10 a.m. that he suffered his fatal heart attack. The doormen at 1115 5th assisted the police in identifying Dad and breaking the news to Mother.

7. In 1943 Isaac M. Stewart was the Branch President of the Westchester Branch. Arthur H. Neeley was First Counselor and Dad was Second Counselor. That year Mary Bennion started writing the monthly branch newspaper called the Westchester Branch Briefs. Each month it gave a fairly detailed account of the activities of the branch together with news of branch members. Mother became the editor in December of 1944. Her contribution lasted until October 1947. It was mailed to members who moved away who wished to maintain in contact with their N.Y. friends. In my trunk of records I had a collection for three or four years of the Branch Briefs. While corresponding with Marilyn Miller Smolka in 2004, she said she had a complete set of the Briefs and sent me a bound book containing them. I found reading this history to be fascinating since it contained interesting facts about the branch members and visiting authorities. I made a copy for the BYU archives department and personally delivered it in 2008 when Heather graduated.

8. Marilyn and I were living in St. Louis in 1976 and went back to NY and obtained a large trunk along with a few furniture items Adelaide no longer wanted or needed. Maridon visited us in October of 1976 when we opened the trunk that had belonged to our Mother. Henry had left it with Mother after his mission. We found Mother's engagement ring and a "tenth year wedding anniversary" ring. The engagement ring (from Tiffany's) had originally been given to Julina Lambson by Joseph F. Smith when they were married. Julina was given a ring each time Joseph married an additional wife. (He had four more wives and 48 children.) When Julina died, Grandmother (Donnette) got the first ring, and then it went to Mother.

9. In 1998, sitting on the top shelf in the den of Mother's Salt Lake home was a beautifully hand carved wooden bull about the size of a large football. I remember the bull being in our living room on a shelf in one of the book shelves where Dad had a couple of treasures displayed in our home in Scarsdale. Maridon knew the history pertaining to the bull...

Arnold Eric Sevareid was a CBS News correspondent during the Second World War in Paris and London. At the age of 26, he was hired by Edward R. Murrow, out of the London office to come to work for CBS in 1939. Eric had covered part of the Spanish civil war in 1938. "(See Hemingway's For Whom the Bells Toll.) Hitler was supplying war machinery to both sides trying out his Stuka dive-bomber planes and various types of guns for future use. Sort of an experiment for things to come." Eric witnessed and reported on much of the destruction and misery. He was the first U.S. broadcaster to report the fall of Paris when captured by the Germans. He escaped to Spain minutes before the occupation. While in Spain, he obtained this bull, and with a few personal belongings made his way over the border into Portugal, catching a clipper out of Lisbon for London and eventually New York. In token of their friendship, Eric personally gifted the bull to Dad.

Dad personally knew and assisted Edward Murrow, Eric Sevareid and Lowell Thomas to name a few. The War established the CBS Radio News Department. All the correspondents loved 'Mac' as they called Dad. Maridon remembers meeting many of these great individuals who contributed so much to the enlightenment and entertainment of mankind. She described Eric as being "a big man with gorgeous auburn hair and a very deep commanding voice."

Another item which I faintly remember, but which Maridon vividly remembers is a German beer stein that was also in our Scarsdale living room. We have found letters that Dad wrote to Mother in June of 1928 from Germany. Here is the story. As far as we can construct, Dad took a four-week break from Cushman and Wakefield. He applied for and was hired in a position as Social Director on the SS President Harding sailing from New York to England and Germany. He wrote Mother, who went to stay with Marion and Ken in their West Philadelphia home at 4605 Chester Avenue, that he visited Bremerhaven, Bremen, Berlin, Potsdam, and Hanover. Ports of call were Plymouth and Cherbourg. The captain invited Dad to his cabin for a lengthy interview and chat. It was on this trip that he acquired this beer stein. While in Germany he had occasion to see Henry Kesler, Mother's brother, who was in Germany serving a mission. Henry (b. April 24, 1907) would have been 21 year old. Dad mentions seeing the German soldiers "singing" in the streets of Hanover and Bremen. Maridon still has the trunk Dad took on this cruise.

10. Mother's oldest brother, Alonzo, became a United States District attorney during the Eisenhower years and later became Attorney General for the State of Utah just before the Kennedy years. John, Alonzo's son, was converted to the Church while he attended Columbia

Law School in New York City. Later he became a Bishop in the LDS Church after returning to Salt Lake. Alonzo's wife was Ellen Wilhelmina Tourssen.

Mack, Mother's youngest brother, was a professor in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Utah for 45 years. He assisted with the design and support engineering phase of the clock tower of the Salt Lake City and County Building. He was a project manager during the initial building of the Salt Lake airport. He was owner of a very successful Salt Lake sprinkler system business that provided employment for his four sons. Mack was an Eagle Scout of great renown in spite of his physical handicap as outlined in this history. Mack's wife was Lavina Walker.

Henry, Mother's 2nd brother, directed and produced movies and TV series, many of which are in the special collections department of BYU. Henry was a founding member of the Directors Guild of America. A brief review of Henry's movies and TV series can be found on the Internet along with recognitions and awards. Henry's wife was Nancy Lee Hurt.

Mother had two sisters. Marion married Seymour Kenneth Robbins. Imogene married Leon Blood Linford. Leon taught physics at Boston Massachusetts of Technology and he was professor and head of the Department of Physics at the University of Utah prior to his untimely passing in 1957. As outlined in this history, Seymour Kenneth Robbins maintained a large family dental practice. When we visited Salt Lake, we were always welcomed in their home at 1133 Yale Avenue. Dad and Ken were life long friends.

11. Dad's oldest sister, Theresa married Alvin Douglas Beesley. Their son, Kenneth was the New York Stake Mission President during the time of the 1964-65 World's Fair. He and Donna were called as the 'lead couple' in September 1996 to Mongolia. Ken's teaching and leadership skills, with a Doctorate from Columbia University, and Donna as a supportive teacher, opened the door for missionary work within a once communist nation.

Dad's brother, Karl Duncan, married Louise Farr and raised a loving family in Portland. In addition to serving as a bishop, Karl served in the Stake Presidency for nine years and as a Stake Patriarch for eight years. At the time of his passing on 1997 he was a sealer in the Seattle and Portland Temples.

Dad's sister, Otilie, married Kenneth Eugene Lake. Ken was a Bishop and was the officiator at the wedding of my sister, Maridon and John Wells Morrison. Ken owned a very successful insurance and financial estate planning business.

Vilate married Walter Dale Francis. They raised a wonderful family in Morgan, Utah, a home and place where Grandfather McAllister loved to visit. Wally was the county Public Welfare Director of Rich and Morgan counties, a state and federal agency. Ralph, his son, told me that his father spoke at 115 funerals giving personal and gospel centered words of comfort and inspiration.

12. All of Dad's Church and business correspondence ended up in the possession of Robert G. Vernon following the passing of Adelaide, February 23, 1998. Robert had intentions of writing Dad's history but that never materialized. Brief sketches were drafted for the immediate family and several related talks were given to a few Utah Historical societies. Robert passed away some time toward the end of January 2007. The exact time of death was never verified since he

lived alone and was found by his son and cousin several days following his demise. His children disposed of all of Robert's files. Some of Dad's papers were given to the Brigham Young University archives. Dad's biographical outlines and most of his business papers and church related correspondence were given to the University of Utah according to Robert's written desire. The J. Willard Marriott Library (under the control of the University of Utah) requires an appointment to access their archives. No papers or diaries are to be removed from their possession. A lot of Dad's information can be verified on the Internet. Mother's cannot. It is my feeling that the majority of Dad's papers pertain to events after 1950. I know of no detailed diary kept by Dad except one he sketchily maintained while on his mission (1920-22). Mother kept a brief diary that we have in our possession. How grateful I am that my sister is still living and that we have kept some of their letters and papers, although not as complete as a detailed disclosure of all their writings would reveal. It is hoped that this writing will give a brief glimpse into their lives. We give our witness to the truthfulness and veracity of this tribute that has been written to the best of our knowledge.



13. Brooklyn is also part of my history. I would often go with Dad to Branch Conferences held in the Gates and Franklin chapel, during the 1952-1958 time period. My sister was baptized in the baptismal font of the Brooklyn Branch in 1938. During the winter of 1956-57, Leora Thatcher, a distinguished actress on Broadway, radio and television, and a native of Logan, Utah, was called to direct the Manhattan Stake Spring Drama Festival. Participating were Uniondale Ward, Queens Ward, Short Hills Ward and Brooklyn Branch. Since the Brooklyn Branch needed another youth for their skit "Antic Spring", Leora asked me to help out. We had many dates at the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Station before taking the subway to play practice at the Brooklyn branch. (Great Memories!)

14. Since Dad's passing, Lord & Taylor has under gone two ownership changes. The first was from Associated Dry Goods Corporation to the Federated Department Stores group. In the late 1990s Federated and the May Company Department Stores Inc. merged. The Macy brand was part of that timing and merge. As of 2006 the corporation has been owned by NRDC Equity Partners, LLC. I am sure Dad along with the Mr. Lord and Mr. Taylor of the 1826 era would not recognize its original grandeur. Gone are the days when it was the only store that played the national anthem before the start of each business day. Also in the 1940-1960 period, Sundays were holy days and Lord & Taylor was closed on the Lord's Day.

15. CBS radio has under gone many changes since 1946. The only surviving program of worth I think is the continuation and airing of the LDS broadcast 'Music and the Spoken Word from the Crossroads of the West'. Thanks Dad for your foresight.

My Purpose in Writing This History

After the passing of Adelaide in 1998, I realized that I had no written historical account of Mother or Dad. I had copies of several letters and papers collected over the years. I also

realized that my children and their children would not know many of the details of the lives of Donnette and Stanley, a key part of their ancestry.

My children all grew up knowing Mother 'A' who visited our home on several occasions and we in turn were always welcome in her Salt Lake home.

I started a written correspondence with my sister, Maridon, to pull together from our memories and files, any information that could be gleaned for future reference. As the information was compiled I tried to organize it into a history giving some detail account of the lives of Mother and Dad.

Theirs is a fascinating history.

Through Dad's affiliation with CBS, the Church began its 80-year radio broadcast history of Music and the Spoken Word from the Crossroads of the West.

Two New York World Fairs were part of their vision for Church growth.

Dad had initial contact with and providing physical facilities for many famous celebrities in the entertainment world of the 1930s and 1940s.

The groundwork for a prominent Church presence was laid by trying to acquire parcels of land for a permanent location for meeting together in worship worthy of the arts, education and business found in Manhattan.



Both Mother and Dad contributed to the history and values of the Village of Scarsdale, NY. They were major participants in the community during the 1940s in the growth of the Church and through school board and civic affiliation.

Dad made significant contributions to the growth and development of Lord and Taylor and the surrounding neighborhoods where the stores were built. During 1960's, similar results were realized nation wide through his leadership with the Associated Dry Goods Corporation.

Two sisters had more in common than differences.

Two men shared boyhood dreams and family ties.

Mother and Dad were anchors for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the New York community. They were people of great Faith, Principle and Charity.

They left a great legacy.

Hopefully these pages will help provide a personal witness to their memory and our love and appreciation for their lives as pioneers in their contribution to the betterment of Church, Community, Country and Family.

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